

19 NOV 1999

Ghani-Umno

GHANI CONFIDENT PULAI UMNO MEMBERS WILL REMAIN LOYAL

JOHOR BAHRU, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman is confident that Umno members at all levels of the Pulai Umno Division will be loyal to the party in this general election.

He said the Johor people had always held firmly to the principle of being loyal to the party's struggle and not to any individual.

"This is the experience in Johor... loyalty is always to the party and not to individuals," he told reporters when commenting on Barisan Nasional Secretary-General Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat being dropped as the BN candidate in the Parliamentary constituency of Pulai.

Mohamed has represented Pulai in the Dewan Rakyat since 1969.

In the last General Election, Mohamed won the Pulai seat with a majority of 29,403 votes in a straight fight. He polled 36,871 votes against the 7,468 obtained by his rival Omar Sharif of then Parti Melayu Semangat 46.

Abdul Ghani said he welcomed Mohamed's assurance that he would work hard to ensure the victory of the new BN candidate for Pulai and those for the two state seats within it -- Kempas and Tambatan.

He said the BN candidates for Johor were selected carefully to avoid future problems.

"I along with other Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers collected the state lists from the BN headquarters," he said when commenting on his four-day stay in Kuala Lumpur.

Abdul Ghani met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday and returned to JB only last night.

-- BERNAMA

MKO AAM