

06 JUL 1999

Kamaruddin-Expel

KELANTAN BN FEELS KAMARUDDIN'S EXPULSION IS WISE

KOTA BAHARU, July 6 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Barisan Nasional (BN) described the expulsion of Tumpat Umno Division head Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar and division secretary Saufi Daud from the party as a wise move.

State BN secretary Datuk Mohamed Ariffin Abdul Hamid said the move by the Umno Supreme Council was in line with efforts to "clean" Umno's image in the Tumpat division.

Mohamed Ariffin said UMNO members in the division concerned must uphold the wellbeing of the party and cooperate fully with the acting division head Mansor Salleh in carrying out his duties.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also Umno vice president, announced the decision of the Umno supreme council meeting chaired by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night to expel nine party members including Kamaruddin and Saufi for helping and joining the opposition.

Meanwhile, Mansor told a press conference here that the expulsion of Kamaruddin, Saufi and Tumpat Umno acting secretary (since May 1) Mohamad Noor Yaakub would not cause a split among Umno members in the division.

He said members of the Tumpat Umno division totalling 17,000 fully supported their expulsion and pledged to continue to struggle and ensure that Umno would recapture the Pasir Pekan and Kelaboran State Assembly seats in the division in the coming general election.

"Every programme will go on smoothly including streamlining the party machinery to face the general election," he said.

He said efforts to carry out programmes with the people in the Tumpat division were stalled when Kamaruddin decided to take leave from May 1.

Kelantan Umno Youth head Zahari Kechik said the movement welcomed the decision, adding that he was confident the expulsions would not affect Kelantan Umno's preparation for the coming general election.

"Umno only wants leaders who are committed to the party and championed the party's cause," he said here.

He said Umno's fighting spirit was improving from the level of the Youth movement right up to the veterans following the appointment of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as chairman of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Body.

-- BERNAMA

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