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Mahathir-Candidates

MAHATHIR MEET STATE UMNO CHIEFS ON CANDIDATE LISTS

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today met several Menteri Besar and a Chief Minister in their capacity as state Umno chiefs to discuss the party's lists of candidates for the 10th general election.

Those who met Dr Mahathir in the morning were Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob of Pahang, Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin of Melaka, Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad of Negeri Sembilan and Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman of Johor.

In the afternoon, Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar of Selangor, Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib of Perak and Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim of Perlis met Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman.

Ramli told reporters after the meeting that they discussed Perak Umno's candidate list but it had not been finalised yet.

"We discussed and analysed the candidates one by one, but no decision has been made yet," he said.

As usual, the names of the candidates would only be known on the eve of nomination, he said. Nomination day is Saturday and polling on Nov 29.

Asked whether there are many new faces in the list, Ramli said: "Not known yet because no decision has been made."

Ramli said his discussion with Dr Mahathir took about 45 minutes.

Also seen leaving the Prime Minister's Department was Wanita Umno vice-chief Datuk Napsiah Omar, who is a Negeri Sembilan state Exco member.

Tomorrow, the state Umno liaison chiefs of Kedah, Terengganu, Kelantan, Federal Territory and Sabah and the BN component party heads are expected to meet Dr Mahathir to discuss their candidate lists.

In PORT DICKSON, Mohamed Isa told reporters that he submitted at least three names for each constituency when he met Dr Mahathir at about 11am.

It was up to the Prime Minister to decide, he said.

He declined to comment on speculation that he would be contesting the Tampin parliamentary seat.

When asked which BN component would be given the Lobak state seat, he said this was also for Dr Mahathir to decide.

In the last election, Gerakan contested the seat but was defeated by DAP's Khoo Seng Hock who later joined MCA.

Mohamed Isa urged all BN elected representatives who were not renominated to support whoever was selected to ensure the party's victory.

-- BERNAMA

RP YBY