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Election-Abu Zahar

MOVING TO PARLIAMENT SEAT COMES AS NO SURPRISE TO ABU ZAHAR

MELAKA, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar said today moving to a Parliament seat comes as no surprise to him.

His transfer from a state seat confirmed speculation that Melaka will get a new Chief Minister after the General Election.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Abu Zahar had said deciding on the potential candidates for the General Election was the prerogative of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also Umno President and Barisan Nasional Chairman.

"I will accept the directive to contest in any state. However I prefer more a state seat as there are still lots of things to be approved," he had said.

Announcing the BN list of candidates today, he however said matters such as switching seats was normal.

"It does not come as a surprise to me to be fielded in Parliament. This offers me an opportunity to gain experience at the national level before I retire," he said.

The Chief Minister who looked cheerful at the news conference said he welcomed his "transfer" to Parliament "as this reflected Dr Mahathir's confidence in me."

"I have the experience of being an Assembly Speaker, State Executive Councillor and Chief Minister," he said.

He was appointed Chief Minister in May 1997 following the death of then Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani.

Asked who will be his successor, Abu Zahar said, "I do not know who will be the new Chief Minister but whoever he is, he will be my close friend," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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