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Candidates-Melaka

NINE NEW BN FACES IN MELAKA, ABU ZAHAR MOVES TO PARLIAMENT

MELAKA, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- The Melaka Barisan Nasional (BN) has lined up nine new faces for state and Parliamentary seats while Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin will contest a Parliamentary seat in the 10th General Election for which nomination is tomorrow and polling on Nov 29.

Announcing the BN list, Abu Zahar who is the Melaka BN Chairman said he would contest the Jasin Parliamentary seat last held by former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam the incumbent Batu Berendam MP will contest in Paya Rumpit, he told a media conference at his official residence Seri Bendahara here.

Three Umno Executive Councillors were dropped -- Datuk Mohamed Yasin Sarif (Paya Rumpit), Datuk Noordin Yaani (Sungai Udang) and Datuk Mohamed Sharif Drus (Pulau Sebang).

Also dropped is Melaka State Assembly Speaker Datuk Nasir Manap the incumbent assemblyman for Alai.

Of the eight new BN faces for state assembly seats are, six are from Umno -- Kapt (Rtd) Abdul Karim Sulaiman (Sungai Udang), Abdul Aziz Isa (Pulau Sebang), Datuk Abdul Kadir Daud (Durian Tunggal), Yaacob Md Amin (Tangga Batu), Datuk Amid Nordin (Alai) and Nazari Adzim (Merlimau) and from the MCA Chew Chong Lim (Durian Daun) and Ng Peng Ann (Bandar Hilir).

Apart from Abu Zahar, the other Melaka BN Parliamentary candidates are former Melaka Wanita Umno head Datuk Hazizah Mohd Sultan who is replacing Mohd Ali in the Batu Berendam Parliamentary seat.

Hazizah the incumbent MLA for Tangga Batu is the first Wanita Umno candidate from Melaka to contest a Parliamentary seat.

The Melaka MCA also introduced its first woman candidate, Lim Swee Kiang, a new face who will contest the Kota Melaka Parliamentary seat.

Two incumbent MPs who will defend their seats are Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn (Selandar) and Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusof (Alor Gajah.)

Abu Zahar said the status quo had been maintained in the allocation of seats among the BN component parties with Umno contesting in 16 state seats and three Parliamentary seats, MCA in seven state seats and two Parliamentary seats and the MIC and Gerakan in one state seat each.

In the General Election of 1995, the BN won 22 of the 25 state seats and four of the five Parliamentary seats.

Abu Zahar was confident that the combination of new and old faces, the Melaka BN would once again be able to repeat its outstanding 1995 General Election victory.

"We will continue to have a BN victory and also wrest control of the three seats which went to the opposition DAP in the last general election," said Abu Zahar who appeared in high spirits during the media conference.

The 100 odd BN supporters and candidates applauded when the Chief Minister announced that he would move to the Jasin Parliamentary seat.

Asked about his transfer to Parliament, Abu Zahar said he was thankful to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for allowing him to continue with the struggle at national level.

The former Assembly Speaker and Executive Councillor was appointed Chief Minister in May 1997, following the death of Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Zin Abdul Ghani.

Abu Zahar who has served as an assemblyman for three terms advised

candidates to listen to the voters' problems and continue with the planned development programmes.

-- BERNAMA

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