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Khalil-Harun  
PAS LACKS CONFIDENCE, SAYS KHALIL

KUANTAN, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said that PAS' decision not to field Datuk Dr Harun Din in the general election shows the party is not confident about getting support.

"The east coast people call this absurd...previously they talked about doing this and that but in the end are not willing to stake their reputation," he told reporters after attending the Kuantan Municipal Council family day celebrations here today.

He was commenting on PAS' move to pit central committee member Subky Latif against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency despite its earlier hype that Dr Harun would challenge the Umno president and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman.

"Based on the statements made, Harun Din should have been the one contesting because he had expressed his desire to challenge the Prime Minister and the Perlis Menteri Besar. But this did not happen," he said.

"I feel this shows that such PAS leaders are not too confident of their machinery and the support they can get," said Khalil.

Khalil said such leaders were afraid of facing the voters to test their support.

Asked on rumours yesterday that several opposition leaders had won uncontested, Khalil said the opposition was fond of fabricating stories and spreading lies.

This was a tactic to try and divert attention from the fact that the BN was strong, he said.

Khalil also commented on former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's decision not to contest in the election for fear of Keadilan losing a seat by default.

"If he is not contesting, how can he become the Prime Minister? A Prime Minister must be brave enough to contest...we cannot appoint a PM from the Senate," he said.

The so-called Opposition Front, which includes Keadilan, has said Anwar would be made the Prime Minister if it could topple the Barisan Nasional in the Nov 29 general election.

Anwar, who is serving a six-year jail term for power abuse, is now on trial for sodomy.

-- BERNAMA  
MAM YBY