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Hassan-Candidates

SELANGOR BN MAKES LAST-MINUTE CHANGE IN CANDIDATE LIST

KUALA SELANGOR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Selangor Barisan Nasional today made a last-minute change in its list of candidates standing in the general election following withdrawal by one of its candidates.

Its chairman Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar said Aliah Mohd Salleh had informed her intention to withdraw from the contest for the Gombak Setia state constituency this evening as she was still not ready.

He said Aliah had earlier been informed of the Umno leadership's decision to nominate her to stand in the state constituency several hours before it was announced to the public.

"Initially she accepted the offer, but later changed her mind after discussing with her family," he said at a press conference after meeting with Selangor Umno leaders at the Kuala Selangor Umno headquarters.

He said Aliah who had resigned as Principal Assistant Director of MIDA (Malaysian Industrial Development Authority) is now considering an offer for a key position in one of the state government subsidiary companies.

Abu Hassan said he had informed BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter and he had agreed on a new candidate.

"As there is no woman candidate who is considered suitable in the area, we have agreed that Gombak Umno Division secretary, Abdul Ghani Yatim, be nominated," he said.

He said Ghani, 56, was a former headmaster and was conferred a Justice of the Peace (JP) recently.

He said the BN now has eight women candidates and the number is still sufficient to meet the quota set for women candidates.

Abu Hassan refuted claims that the BN made the decision as it was doubtful of Aliah's ability to defeat Ustaz Ismail Kamus in the area as, according to him, no one knows which candidate is being nominated by the opposition in the area.

He also denied that the decision was taken because of pressure from the Gombak Umno division which did not support Aliah's candidacy.

-- BERNAMA

AZH AO