

19 NOV 1999

Tajol-MB

TAJOL: MOVING TO KENERING DOESN'T MEAN I'LL BE PERAK MB

IPOH, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said his shift to a state seat in this election did not necessarily mean he will be appointed as Perak Menteri Besar after the polls.

"It is for the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) to decide. I'm not sure. I'm just standing for a state seat.

" I did not get any hint from Dr Mahathir. He did not say anything. Being a politician, I will contest wherever as instructed by the party leadership," said Tajol, who has been nominated for the Kenering state seat.

Tajol was the MP for Gerik before Parliament was dissolved on Nov 11.

He said Kenering marked his debut into active politics when he was fielded by the Barisan Nasional (BN) in 1977 to defend the seat following the death of his father Tan Sri Ghazali Jawi, the former Perak Menteri Besar.

"After serving as the Kenering assemblyman for nine months, I contested in the Gerik parliamentary seat in the 1978 general election and remained as the MP for 21 years," he told reporters after Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib announced the BN candidates for the 52 state and 23 parliamentary seats in Perak at his residence, here.

Tajol said his immediate priority was to help Ramli to ensure the BN was returned to a resounding victory as in the last election.

In the 1995 general election, BN captured all 23 parliamentary and lost one of the 52 state seats. The Sitiawan state seat went to DAP.

The coalition lost the Teluk Intan parliamentary seat to DAP in a by-election in 1997.

Ramli said he was not shocked over the decision to move him to the Pasir Salak parliamentary seat from Kampung Gajah in this election.

"I'll abide by the leadership's decision," he said.

He, however, expressed sadness to leave the state after serving as Menteri Besar for 17 years.

He said he was not sure of his successor although it is widely speculated that Tajol is the closest choice.

-- BERNAMA

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