

20/11/1999

19 new faces to vie for seats in Kedah

ALOR STAR, Fri. - Former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff was among 19 incumbents dropped from the Kedah Barisan Nasional list of candidates.

Others dropped were Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Raja Datuk Ariffin Raja Sulaiman.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin will defend their Kubang Pasu and Merbok parliamentary seats while Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid is seeking re-election for the Kuah state seat.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman will defend the Sik parliamentary seat.

Transport Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Chor Chee Heung will also defend his Alor Star parliamentary seat.

Announcing the Barisan Nasional candidate list at the Menteri Besar's official residence today Sanusi, who is State BN chairman, said 19 new faces would contest six of the 15 parliamentary seats and 13 of the 36 state seats.

Among them are Institut Agama Islam Kedah Rector Datuk Othman Ishak who replaces Osman at the Jitra state seat, former Biro Tatanegara deputy director-general Othman Ismail replacing Affifuddin at the Padang Terap parliamentary seat, Universiti Malaya lecturer Datuk Mahadzir Khir (Sungai Petani parliamentary seat) and former Utusan Malaysia journalist Rosnah Majid (Tanjung Dawai state seat).

Sanusi said the number of seats allocated for women had also been increased by one to five but three incumbents - State Wanita Umno chief Fatimah Ismail (Sungai Tiang state seat), State MCA Wanita chief Lim Lay Hoon (Padang Serai parliamentary seat) and Che Pora Omar (Merbau Pulas state seat) had been dropped.

National Wanita MCA deputy treasurer Lim Bee Kau will contest the Padang Serai parliamentary seat, Marlia Latiff (Merbau Pulas state seat) and Siti Mariam Salleh (Belantek state seat).

State Umno Youth leader Ismail Tayib will contest the Jerlun parliamentary seat.

State Gerakan chairman Datuk Fong Chok Gin and State MIC chairman Datuk V. Saravanan will defend their Sidam and Bukit Selambau state seats respectively.

The 59-year-old Osman did not seem all that surprised he was dropped by the BN leadership.

"I'm happy ... I've served for the last 30 years, eloklah bagi kat orang lain pula (it's right to give it to others now). I think I've done my part," he said.

On his future plans, Osman said he would continue to serve the party.

"However, I will take things easy ... maybe go into business," he added.

(END)