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Umno-Kelantan

UMNO KELANTAN EXPECTED TO DISCUSS ELECTION PREPARATIONS

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan Umno is expected to discuss preparations for the next general election at a meeting to be chaired by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, here, on Thursday.

The meeting is part of the itinerary of the prime minister's one-day working visit to Kelantan.

Kelantan Umno information chief Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir said today the state party leaders also expected Dr Mahathir to explain the current political and economic situation.

"It's the tradition during the fasting month for Dr Mahathir, as chairman of the state Umno liaison committee, to visit Kelantan," he told reporters, here,

Kelantan is the first state to be visited by Dr Mahathir after he announced his intention to visit the states following the Cabinet reshuffle last Friday.

Zainal Abidin said the Kelantan Umno was ready for the general election. The Umno supreme council had decided to postpone the party elections to concentrate on preparations for the general election.

"I'm always optimistic that Umno can win Kelantan if it wants to," Zainal Abidin said.

On the position of former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, he said the Gua Musang Umno division chief still had a role to play in helping the party in the general election.

Prior to the announcement on the Cabinet reshuffle, Tengku Razaleigh was among those widely speculated to fill the deputy prime minister's post, the other two being Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Zainal Abidin said : "Many people in Kelantan want Tengku Razaleigh to concentrate on Kelantan to help Umno in the election."

He said Tengku Razaleigh's vast experience would come in handy in drawing up strategies to topple PAS, which helms the state government.

-- BERNAMA

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