

20 NOV 1999

Election-Veterans

VETERAN POLITICIANS FILE NOMINATION PAPERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba, the BN candidate contesting the Batu Berendam parliamentary seat, will surely top the list of veteran candidates who filed in their nominations today for the Nov 29 general election.

Ghafar, 74, recently announced that he wished not to defend the Jasin parliamentary seat but his name was included in the Melaka BN candidates' list at the insistence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He had voiced a similar intention in the 1995 general election but was rejected by Dr Mahathir.

As the nomination day ended today confirming the various candidacies, another veteran politician in the fray was Datuk Dr Rais Yatim, the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate contesting the Jelebu parliamentary seat.

The former Foreign Minister had said his vast experience in politics and government would come in handy to serve the constituents.

He won the seat in 1974, 1982 and 1986 on a BN ticket but lost in the 1990 and 1995 general elections when he stood as a Semangat 46 candidate.

Asked to comment on Rais' return to the seat, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said it was a good combination between veteran and younger leaders.

On the opposition side, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang, 58, would surely rank among the veterans running for office.

The Johor-born lawyer has been in office under the DAP banner since 1969 and has been the official parliamentary opposition leader since 1978.

Another veteran DAP official is Dr Chen Man Hin, 75, who is contesting the Rasah parliamentary seat. He won the Seremban seat in 1969 and Rahang state seat in 1965 as an independent.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Muslim Othman, the Kedah PAS deputy commissioner, will be contesting for the sixth time in the general election.

He has been active in politics since the 60s and contested twice under Umno and four times under PAS. He is contesting the Pantai Merdeka state seat.

-- BERNAMA

GM RM