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Sanusi-Contest  
WILL SANUSI JUNID CONTEST?

ALOR SETAR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Will Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid contest in the forthcoming general election?

"Yes, I will defend my Kuah state seat," he said today.

Asked whether Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had endorsed his candidacy, he said, "I can't endorse it myself. That is PM's idea."

Sanusi gave similar response when posed the question before and after meeting Dr Mahathir.

He met Prime Minister at the latter's office in Putrajaya yesterday to discuss the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates in Kedah.

He was asked the same question on Nov 10, a day before the dissolution of Parliament and state legislative assemblies (except in Sabah and Sarawak) and again on Nov 12 after meeting Kedah elected representatives, a day after the dissolution. Today, he was asked again a day after meeting Dr Mahathir.

Sanusi had been widely speculated to be dropped in the general election, or else swap his state seat to that of parliament, either way leaving the Menteri Besar's post vacant.

Tipped to succeed him is Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali who reportedly will contest in Tunjang constituency.

"I have received 40 calls from Johor today asking the same question on Sanusi's candidacy. They thought I could give them the answer," said Aziz Desa, Menteri Besar's Media and Communication Manager.

Sanusi said that the speculations did not disrupt preparations of the Kedah BN machinery.

On comment by some newspapers that Kedah would be well off with him, Sanusi said, "Don't just talk to a few people and then come to a conclusion."

Sanusi said Kedah BN would announce its candidate on Friday, a day before Nomination Day.

-- BERNAMA

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