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Zaleha-Mahathir

ZALEHA LEAVING CANDIDACY TO DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail is leaving to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide on her candidacy in the Nov 29 general election.

"I will abide by Dr Mahathir's decision," she told reporters after giving away prizes to winners of short story writing competition, here.

She said she did not know whether she would contest or otherwise in the election as the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates have not been announced officially.

"Only Dr Mahathir knows the right people to be fielded and to hold positions," said Zaleha, who had contested in five general elections.

She said the BN election machinery was in full swing in her Gombak parliamentary constituency.

She is confident the BN would retain the seat with a bigger majority this time as 50.3 per cent of the electorate were women.

"Women are loyal BN supporters," she said.

In her speech, Zaleha said the competition was an encouragement for teenagers to think of ways to forge unity and national integration.

Competition winner Nur Hidayah Mansor of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Section 24 in Shah Alam received RM2,000 from Bank Simpanan Nasional and RM1,000 from the National Unity Department, books from Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and a hamper.

Her school also received a computer in appreciation of her success.

Shahirah Shafie of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Syed Sirajuddin in Perlis was adjudged second while Nurdila Abdul Ghani of Sekolah Menengah Agama Al-Ihsan in Kuantan came in third.

-- BERNAMA

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