
I Was not forced out, says Sanusi

03 JAN 2000

PETALING JAYA, Sun: Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said his decision to quit the post of Kedah menteri besar was neither due to pressure nor prompted by force.

The decision was his own and not due to media attacks against him, he said in an interview with *Mingguan Malaysia*.

The main reason he cited for his decision was that certain quarters within Umno itself had been working against him right from the start.

This, he said, had affected the state Umno's performance in the recent general election.

Sanusi added that the controversy which existed three-and-a-half years ago when he assumed office amidst protests from Umno exco members was common knowledge.

Despite being either Umno members or leaders, Sanusi said, his opponents were nevertheless happy with the Barisan Nasional's (BN) election performance this time around and had rejoiced after he quit.

The BN lost eight parliamentary seats and 12 state seats to the Opposition.

Sanusi said that if Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had wanted him to quit, he knew that he did not have to exert

Former MB blames internal dispute for BN losses

tacks".

Apart from explaining the main reason for quitting, Sanusi, 56, also mentioned the "ambitious projects" in Kedah and the hatred the state's civil servants felt towards him.

He was also asked whether the coalition's dismal election performance in Kedah, particularly Umno's, was due to his failure to convince the people about the state government and the loss of confidence of Umno members in his leadership.

Sanusi said his failure was not related to his ability to run the state, which he was sure he was capable of, but rather in the handling of Umno's affairs.

"All the issues forwarded have been answered and the ceramah speakers have been trained and numerous talks held.

"However, I can't speak to people outside Kedah who cast postal ballots.

"I also could not address issues raised by those coming from outstation such as Kuala Lumpur who returned for the elections and brought along KL's political sentiments," he said.

pressure or resort to force.

"(If) he asks me to resign, I will certainly do so because he was the one who appointed me. The MB post is not my personal inheritance. In this case, I was not pressured or forced. I quit on my own," he said.

He was commenting on popular belief that his decision was prompted by pressure from Umno members, besides "those at the top" and what he had previously mentioned as media "at-