

18/06/2000

Pas should let Sik MP resign, says Abdul Hamid

SIK, Sat. - The Pas leadership should allow Datuk Shahnnon Ahmad to resign as Sik Member of Parliament for the sake of the constituents, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman said today.

"Why force him to stay on when he has indicated he wants to resign because of health reasons.

"They (Pas leaders) should put the people's interest first instead of just thinking about politics," he said when asked to comment on news reports that Shahnnon planned to step down as Sik MP because of failing health.

Abdul Hamid said Shahnnon's intention could have been because the latter felt he could not carry on serving the people of Sik anymore.

"However, Pas leaders don't care about all this, they are only interested in politics.

"It must have come as a great shock to them when Shahnnon made known his intention," he said.

On Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor's contention Shahnnon could still serve despite his poor health as there were others from the party to help him, Abdul Hamid said:

"Shahnnon himself has said he cannot continue and cannot serve the people anymore."

On Fadzil's statement there were also Barisan Nasional MPs and assemblymen, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who fell sick often but continued to hold on to their posts, Abdul Hamid said:

"Dr Mahathir can still work, he travels often and has a very busy daily schedule.

"This shows they are able to perform unlike Shahnnon who himself says he wants to quit."

Asked if the Sik Umno was prepared to face a by-election should Shahnnon really step down, Abdul Hamid, who is Umno Sik division chief, said the division was not only prepared but also confident of regaining the seat from the opposition party.

On whether he would stand as a candidate again, Abdul Hamid said the decision should be left to the party president.

(END)