

01 JULY 2000

Adnan-Deputy

I'VE NO PROBLEM BEING NO 2 IN PAHANG UMNO - ADNAN

KUANTAN, July 1 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said he had no problem for being appointed as the Pahang Umno deputy head.

In welcoming the appointment, Adnan said he believed Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had certain considerations to name Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob as the State Umno liaison chief and he as the deputy.

" We in Pahang have no split..Who goes up, who comes down, it's not a problem, we cooperate among one another.

" What's important is to discharge our duties to get to know the people's problems and to counter attacks from the opposition to face the next general election in 2004 or 2005," he told reporters after attending the Maybank Group's dinner reception here last night.

Adnan, who was the Pahang Umno chief, was named deputy chairman when the list of State Umno liaison chiefs and deputy chairmen were announced yesterday by Khalil who is also Umno secretary-general.

Asked whether the appointment reflected the leadership's lack of confidence in him, he said if that was the case, not only he would not be appointed as State Umno liaison chief but would also be replaced as the Menteri Besar.

He said Pahang Umno also required the experience of Khalil, who was former Pahang Menteri Besar and State Umno chairman, to lead the party in the state.

" He (Khalil) is already 62 years old while I'm only 50, Maybe I need some time," he said.

Pledging to give full cooperation to Khalil, Adnan said he was confident Pahang Umno would function smoothly irrespective of whether the state chairman was the Menteri Besar or otherwise.

He said being the State Umno liaison chief without the cooperation of the Menteri Besar would be meaningless.

He said his appointment as deputy chairman was not shocking as the deputy State Umno chairmen in Johor and Selangor were Umno vice-presidents.

"In a way I'm equivalent to the vice-president," he quipped.

Asked whether his appointment as deputy chairman would enable him to concentrate more attention on his duties as Menteri Besar, he said it could be a factor as Pahang was a big state.

"I must visit the districts. Now, I'm on my second round," said Adnan, who recently visited Jerantut, Rompin and Cameron Highlands.

-- BERNAMA

SHS TS