

30 MAR 2001

Fauzi-Letter

FAUZI HANDS OVER RESIGNATION LETTER

KUANTAN, March 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman has formally resigned as Pahang state assemblyman for Beserah as from today.

His special secretary Noor Ferizli Nordin handed over the resignation letter to the political secretary to Pahang Menteri Besar Samsuddin Nawawi at Fauzi's residence in Bandar Indera Mahkota here at about 3pm today.

The letter, addressed to Pahang Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, expressed Fauzi's desire to vacate the Beserah seat which he won in the 1999 general election.

Fauzi, 55, said yesterday he decided to give up the seat as the majority of the Umno branches in Beserah did not nominate him to defend the post of the Kuantan division chief in next month's Umno elections.

So far he had only nine nominations compared to 29 secured by division vice head Datuk Faisal Abdullah and 20 by the deputy division chief Datuk Wan Adnan Wan Mamat.

Sources said that of the nine branches that nominated him, six were from Beserah namely Sungai Ular, Batu Hitam, Sungai Karang Darat, Sungai Karang Pantai, Galing Besar and Beserah Selatan Baru.

There are 20 Umno branches in the Beserah area.

Fifty-eight of the 65 Umno branches in Kuantan division had held their general meetings.

When reporters met him at his residence, Fauzi said he resigned not because of failure to secure enough nominations to defend the post of division chief but because he saw no point in remaining an assemblyman when his own constituency did not want him to continue leading the Kuantan division.

Asked about Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice that Umno members failing to secure sufficient nominations to accept such reality, Fauzi said he agreed with the Umno president's statement.

"I agree with the PM that those not getting enough nominations should not cause problems to the party. I am not creating problems to the party. I am quitting, this is not the party's problem, the party can pick someone better," said Fauzi who was already at the helm of the Kuantan division at the age of 26 in 1973 as vice division chief.

Asked about the presence of several PAS members, including the assemblyman for Jengka Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man at his residence, Fauzi said all sorts of visitors, including apolitical ones, called on him there to hear from him personally.

Pahang State Election Officer Muhammad Safian Ismail, when contacted by Bernama, said Beserah still has an assemblyman as the Election Commission has not received any official report yet of the seat being vacant.

The law says any elected representative intending to vacate his seat must submit his resignation letter to the State Legislative Assembly Speaker who will then formally inform the State Election Office of the vacancy within three days and a by-election shall be held within 60 days.

Muhammad Safian said he would inform the Election Commission's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur within 24 hours of receiving a report from the Speaker.

According to the November 2000 electoral roll Beserah has 23,790 registered voters.

In the last general election, Fauzi defeated his PAS challenger Mohamed Yusof Ibrahim with a majority of 985 votes.

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