

27/01/2001

Jelebu Umno division head to make way for Rais

SIMPANG PERTANG (Jelebu), Fri. - Jelebu Umno division chief Yunus Rahmat said he would step down to pave the way for Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Jelebu MP, Datuk Dr Rais Yatim, to take over the post.

Yunus, who is political secretary to Rais, said the division's committee members had unanimously agreed that Rais lead the division for the sake of Umno and the Malays.

"He (Rais) is badly needed not only by us but also the country and the Malays. I will be stepping down and accept the number two post," he told reporters at Simpang Pertang today.

He said there should not be any contest for the post during the divisional meeting scheduled for April.

However, Yunus said he would leave it to the branches to decide on the matter.

Meanwhile, Rais has dismissed as untrue rumours that he would be appointed the next Menteri Besar to replace Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad.

In jest, Rais who was the Negri Sembilan MB from 1979 to 1982, said: "Like what the locals here say, takkan nak balik ke takuk lama (definitely not coming back for the old post).

He said there was no truth in the rumours, adding that it was created by certain quarters.

"The question of me becoming the MB does not arise," he said when met at Simpang Pertang today.

He, however, said he would go wherever Umno wanted him to. On a different note, Rais said the Government was satisfied with the role played by the rulers in promoting Malay unity in the country.

Asked on the rulers' role in uniting the Malays he said, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had briefed rulers during the Ruler's Council meeting on the problems affecting the Malays.

He said this would augur well for the Malays and other races.

(END)