

19/11/2001

Khor in critical condition, says MB

KANGAR, Sun. - Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim today confirmed that Indera Kayangan State Assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee is in a critical condition and on a life-support machine.

He said the 59-year-old politician who has been suffering from colon cancer for two years, was conscious when he visited him at a private hospital in Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

He said that Khor, who is State MCA chief, had been warded at the intensive care unit since his operation at the Gleneagles Intan Specialist Centre two months ago.

Shahidan said he would send an official letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter.

"I've informed him verbally about Khor's condition," he said when met at his office here.

On the possibility of a by-election, he expressed confidence in the ability of the State's Barisan Nasional machinery to retain the seat.

"The Malay and Chinese community in Indera Kayangan have expressed their support for BN while the Indian community are fully behind us.

"I believe we can win with a big majority here. It is too premature to talk about the choice of the candidate, but we will be very careful in the selection."

On speculation that he had held several meetings with Chinese community leaders and Umno leaders in Indera Kayangan recently over Khor's health, Shahidan said it was merely coincidental.

"I have regular meetings with BN representatives to discuss election preparations.

"I met with Sanglang (representatives) recently and now its Indera Kayangan's turn."

He said the current differences in the State MCA would not affect the BN's chances of defending the Indera Kayangan seat.

"That is MCA's internal matter but Titi Tinggi Assemblyman Loh Yoon Foo has given me his full support," he said.

There are 15 State seats in Perlis. BN holds 12 and Pas holds the rest.

(END)