

19 MAY 2001

PAS-members

OVER HUNDRED INCLUDING FORMER PAS MEMBERS APPLY TO JOIN UMNO

KOTA BAHARU, May 19 (Bernama) -- One hundred and thirty-three people, including 40 former PAS members today submitted their application to join Pengkalan Chepa Umno division.

The 40 former PAS members were led by Taman Desa Kemumin branch chief Shamsuddin Derauf.

Kelantan Umno Chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed received the application forms in the presence of Pengkalan Chepa divisional chief Dr Mohd Zain Omar.

Shamsuddin, a PAS member since 1985, said they were impressed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership.

They wanted to play their part too in helping the government to bring progress to the country, he told reporters.

"I made the wrong choice in the past, influenced by the sweet promises of PAS. Now, I feel compelled to join Umno and struggle for the interest of the Malays," he said.

Meanwhile, Mustapa said that only Umno could help the Malays in all fields including economy.

"We still harbour hopes that PAS members will join Umno. But we will not force them since we practise democracy," he said.

--BERNAMA

MNR BD ABG