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By-elections-candidates (comments)

BN VOTERS WILL NOT FALL PREY TO PAS'S TACTICS, SAYS OTHMAN ABDUL

ALOR SETAR, July 9 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) voters will not fall prey to PAS's tactics of trying to win sympathy for the late PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor in the coming by-elections, said Pendang Umno division chief Datuk Othman Abdul today.

"Maybe it works for PAS supporters but not the BN supporters. There is growing support for the BN and we only need to win over to our side the fence-sitters," he told a news conference after being named as the BN candidate for the Pendang parliamentary seat.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain also announced at a news conference at the Kedah Umno headquarters at Bangunan Tunku, here, Kuala Kedah Umno division chief Datuk Zakaria Said, 58, as the candidate for the Anak Bukit state seat.

Both seats fell vacant following the death of Fadzil on June 23. Nominations will be held tomorrow with polling fixed for July 18.

Othman, 51, who lost the seat to Fadzil in the 1999 general election, was confident of victory this time around because there were no more major issues such as the Anwar issue.

"I lost the election because of these issues. But now, the opposition cannot use them anymore and for that reason, I am confident of a victory this time around," said Othman who was Pendang Member of Parliament from 1986 to 1999.

He said, in the 1999 general election, some 11,000 Umno members did not go out to vote because of the Anwar issue.

Othman, a former Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department, thanked the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for nominating him as the BN candidate.

Zakaria, meanwhile, also expressed confident in recapturing the Anak Bukit state seat from PAS.

"We consider the seat as a loan to PAS and now we want it back," he said.

In 1982 general election Zakaria captured the seat from PAS when he defeated Haji Wahab Sulaiman with a majority of 1,883 votes.

"In 1982, we were under strength and yet we could win back the seat. Now, with enough strength our chances are better," said Zakaria who had not expected to be nominated as candidate.

-- BERNAMA

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