

29 MAR 2002

Mustapa-Umno

NO LEADERSHIP CRISIS IN KELANTAN UMNO, SAYS MUSTAPA

JELI, March 29 (Bernama) -- There is no leadership crisis in Kelantan Umno and the party is in fact stronger at the grassroots level, state Umno chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

"All of us work hard in Kelantan...the division chiefs go down to the people all the time and I can see that support for Umno from the people is increasing further," he told reporters here.

Mustapa was asked to comment on a front page report in the New Straits Times today which said that 12 of the 14 Umno division chiefs in Kelantan wanted him and four other state Umno leaders replaced on the ground that they were ineffective.

Mustapa said the report would not affect the growing confidence the people had in Umno.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Umno Youth chief Rujhan Salleh said there was no reason why Mustapa should be replaced.

He said Mustapa was a hardworking leader who was accepted by the people and capable of bringing changes.

"We challenge those involved (in calling for Mustapa's replacement) to come forward. We believe the rumours are spread by opposition parties trying to break up Kelantan Umno which has become stronger," he said.

Rujhan said Umno's rivals were not comfortable with the support Umno was getting from the people.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said Umno would not allow any bid to replace its leaders as such action could lead to party disunity.

"(The Kelantan Umno chief) was appointed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. What is there to dispute," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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