

27 JUN 2002

Mustapa-Mahathir

UMNO PROMISES TO DELIVER KELANTAN AS A "SPECIAL GIFT" TO DR M - MUSTAPA

KOTA BAHARU, June 27 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno today promised to wrest the state from Pas in the coming general election as a "special gift" to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had agreed to helm the government and Umno until October next year.

State Umno liaison chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said the promise was also a mark of gratitude to Dr Mahathir to name Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his chosen successor.

"We'll give our full commitment to express our thanks and gratitude to Dr Mahathir by closing ranks and working hard to wrest Kelantan from Pas.

"We think this will be a special gift to our leader," said Mustafa, who is also National Economic Action Council (NEAC) Executive Director.

This promise was among several resolutions contained in the motion supporting Dr Mahathir and Abdullah passed unanimously in a special meeting of the State Umno liaison committee, Umno Youth, Wanita and Puteri here.

Mustapa said Kelantan Umno unanimously agreed with Dr Mahathir's selection of Abdullah as Umno president and Prime Minister after October next year.

"We thank Dr Mahathir for agreeing to the appeals of the Umno General Assembly and supreme council members to continue leading us," he said.

While respecting Dr Mahathir's decision, Mustapa said Kelantan Umno was grateful that Dr Mahathir had placed the interests of the country and Umno over that of his and his family.

He said the motion would be handed to Dr Mahathir and Abdullah soon.

To fulfil the promise of delivering Kelantan, Mustapa said the State Umno was charting strategies to strengthen the leadership and garner more support from the people.

"We must have the confidence we can defeat Pas. We have resolved to work as a team to give a strong fight to Pas," he said.

Asked on Kelantan Umno preparations to help Kedah Umno in the Anak Bukit state and Pendang parliamentary by-elections, Mustapa said the State Umno had given its commitment to work hard to assist Kedah Umno to wrest the two seats from Pas.

"This is an important test to a stronger Umno now. The by-elections are a crucial battle ground for Umno," he said.

Mustapa said he would leave for Kedah tomorrow to discuss preparations for the by-elections.

The by-elections will be held soon following the death of Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor on Sunday. He was Anak Bukit state assemblyman and Member of Parliament for Pendang. He was also parliamentary opposition leader.

Mustapa also said Kelantan Umno and State BN Conventions would be held soon to draw up workable strategies for the general election.

-- BERNAMA

BD BD TS