

Zaid replaces Annuar in Kelantan

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New state Umno deputy chief handpicked by Mahathir

KOTA BARU: Datuk Annuar Musa has been replaced as the Kelantan Umno deputy head.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad replaced him with Kota Baru Umno division chief Zaid Ibrahim - whom Mahathir said was handpicked by him.

Zaid's appointment was announced by Mahathir at a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to the state.

Present were Annuar, who was retained as Peringat Umno division head.

Mahathir, who earlier met with members of the Kelan-

tan Umno liaison committee for more than an hour, also retained Datuk Mustapa Mohamed as Kelantan Umno chief.

Gua Musang MP and Umno division head Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was also retained.

He said as Umno president, he had the prerogative to appoint the chairman of state Umno liaison committees and the deputy chiefs.

"Everyone has agreed to the appointments and have pledged their support."

Mahathir said the appointments were aimed at having a combination of old

and new faces so that Kelantan Umno would remain vibrant and earn the people's support.

"I think the Kelantan people are giving us the support but we have to change the leadership from time to time not because the older leaders are unable to perform but so as to give opportunities to new people."

He said the meeting also discussed Umno strategies to win the state in the next general election.

Mustapa, meanwhile, announced the appointment of Tumpat Umno deputy head Mat Nawawi Mat Jusoh

as state Umno secretary replacing Kubang Kerian Umno head Tuan Mohd Hashim Tuan Yaacob.

Peringat Umno deputy head Mohd Alwi Che Ahmad was appointed state Umno information chief, replacing Machang Umno head Datuk Ismail Mamat.

Mustapa also announced the appointment of Bachok Umno deputy head Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin as state Umno treasurer, replacing Datuk Dr Nik Hussin Abdul Rahman.

Awang Adek is the chairman of Tenaga Nasional Bhd.