

Zaid picked to replace Annuar

STAR 17 JAN 2003

BY MENG YEW CHOONG

KOTA BARU: Prominent lawyer Zaid Ibrahim has been named by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as new Kelantan Umno deputy liaison chief in a major reshuffle of the state Umno office-bearers announced yesterday.

"Yes, I exercised my prerogative as party chief, and Zaid is my choice, while Datuk Mustapa Mohamed remains as chief," he told the press after chairing the state liaison committee meeting attended by most of the 14 division leaders at Sultan Ismail Petra Airport here.

Zaid, who is Kota Baru division chief, replaces former Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, who has

held the deputy liaison chief's post for the past 12 years.

Also in is Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin, who is deputy Bachok division chief and Tenaga Nasional chairman, as treasurer. He replaces Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who is the Gua Musang chief.

Nawawi Jusoh, the deputy Tumpat chief, replaces Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaakob (Kubang Kerian chief) as liaison secretary. Che Alwi Che Ahmad, the deputy Peringat chief, takes over as information chief from Ismail Mamat (Machang chief).

"We have decided that we want to bring changes to Kelantan," Dr Mahathir said, adding that it was up to Mustapa to appoint other office bearers.

"I find that all are in agreement with the new line-up, and have pledged to lend their support to the new faces. And yes, we also did discuss strategies to recapture Kelantan in the next election.

"I think the Kelantanese are ready to vote for us, but we recognise that we need to come up with new faces as part of the constant rejuvenation of the leadership. In saying this, we don't mean that veterans can no longer contribute, but we must give a chance for new blood to lend their contributions."

Zaid, 51, defeated incumbent Datuk Ahmad Rastom Ahmad Maher in a closely fought contest in the divisional election in 2000. He is a partner in Zaid Ibrahim and Co, one of the country's largest legal firms.