

No Umno shake-up in other states: PM

SUN 18 JAN 2003

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CYBERJAYA: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says there is no plans to change the Umno leadership in other states following the changes made in the party's state leadership in Kelantan.

He said nobody was permanent in Umno and leadership changes would be made if there was a need to do so.

"Nobody is permanent, if there is a need to change, we'll change, but we have no specific programme," he told reporters after launching InventQjaya's temporary research and development (R&D) facility yesterday.

Replying to questions on the changes in the Kelantan's Umno leadership line-up, Mahathir, who is also the prime minister, said those who could not do their work would have to go.

"If I'm not able to carry on with my work, I would also have to go. So, I'm going. If I can go, other people can go as well," he said.

Mahathir announced a major shake-up of the Kelantan Umno leadership at the end of his two-day visit to the state on Thursday, with deputy head Datuk Annuar Musa and three others being dropped out.

Saying that he was exercising his prerogative as party chief, Mahathir named lawyer Zaid Ibrahim, who is the Kota Baru Umno division chief, in place of Annuar. He retained Datuk Mustapa Mohamed as the state Umno chief.

Also named were Bachok division deputy chief and Tenaga Nasional chairman Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin, who replaced Datuk Dr Nik Hussein Abdul Rahman as treasurer, deputy Tumpat chief Nawawi Jusoh who took over from Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaakob (Kubang Kerian chief) as liaison secretary and Peringat

deputy chief Che Alwi Che Ahmad, who replaced Ismail Mamat (Machang chief) as information chief.

Asked whether the changes were an indication that the general election was imminent, he said: "I'll tell you when there is an election."

Asked when he planned to call for the election, he said: "I'm not obliged to inform you."

InventQjaya is a temporary R&D facility in Cyberjaya set up to bring in new technologies by Reveo Inc, a US-based company.