

27 JAN 2003

Isa-Candidate

ABIDE BY PARTY LEADERSHIP DECISION, SAYS MOHD ISA

SEREMBAN, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- State Umno leaders must abide by the decision, made by the party leadership, on candidates for the upcoming general elections.

State Umno Liaison Committee chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said it was up to the party leadership to decide the suitable candidate for the elections.

"What's important is that we win the election," he told reporters at the key handover ceremony at Taman Gadong Jaya, Labu, near here today.

The Menteri Besar was responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion for all Umno leaders step back and allow his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to reshuffle everything.

There were many leaders who have held on to their position for long now, he added.

Mohamed Isa agreed with Prime Minister's suggestion to allow Abdullah to choose the new leaders.

"This is an honest viewpoint from a leader and this a fact. If all Barisan Nasional component party supported Pak Lah's decision then it will be easier to face the election.

"I believe all parties agree with the Prime Minister. We realise that during an election not everyone can be a candidate and not everyone will be given a chance - as there were so many qualified people.

"So surely there would be some not chosen, whether the incumbent or otherwise, we must accept. What's important is the people who support the candidate.

Those no longer contesting must repay the party's effort in supporting them when they won," katanya.

-- BERNAMA

RP PC