

17 JAN 2003

Mahathir-Umno

NOBODY IS PERMANENT IN UMNO, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

CYBERJAYA, Jan 17 (bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that nobody is permanent in Umno and leadership changes will be made if there is a need to do so.

However, he said, at the moment there was no specific plan to change the Umno leadership in the other states as had been done in the Kelantan Umno liaison committee.

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

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno president, was asked whether the changes in Kelantan Umno leadership would extend to other states.

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

At the end of his two-day visit to Kelantan yesterday, Dr Mahathir announced a major shake-up of the Kelantan Umno office-bearers, with deputy head Datuk Annuar Musa and three others being dropped.

Saying that he was exercising his prerogative as party chief, Dr Mahathir named prominent lawyer Zaid Ibrahim, who is the Kota Baharu Umno division chief, to take over Annuar's place while retaining Datuk Mustapa Mohamed as the state Umno chief.

Also picked were Bachok division deputy chief and Tenaga Nasional chairman Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin, who replaced Datuk Dr Nik Hussain Abdul Rahman as treasurer; Tumpat deputy chief Nawawi Jusoh who replaced Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaakob (Kubang Kerian chief) as liaison secretary and Peringat deputy chief Che Alwi Che Ahmad took over as information chief from Ismail Mamat (Machang chief).

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

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

InventQjaya is a temporary research and development facility in Cyberjaya to bring in new technologies by Reveo, a US-based company.

-- BERNAMA

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