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Kelantan-Reshuffle

PARTY AND BN VICTORY COMES FIRST, SAYS ANNUAR

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Party comes before self-interest and Barisan Nasional's (BN) victory in Kelantan is more important, Datuk Annuar Musa said.

Hence, he would not question Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to drop him as the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee Deputy Chairman today.

"I can still contribute to the party because I am still the Umno Peringat Division Chief and the party's supreme council member," he told reporters after attending the committee's meeting with Dr Mahathir at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport here.

Annuar, former cabinet minister, was replaced by Umno Kota Baharu Division Chief Zaid Ibrahim, while Datuk Mustapa Mohamed was retained as the liaison committee chairman.

In the reshuffle, Tumpat division deputy chief Mat Nawawi Mat Jusoh replaced Kubang Kerian division head Tuan Mohd Hashim Tuan Yaacob as the committee's secretary.

Peringat division deputy chief Mohd Alwi Che Ahmad was appointed as the information chief, replacing Datuk Ismail Mamat, Machang division leader.

Bachok division deputy head Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin was appointed as the new treasurer -- took over from Datuk Dr Nik Hussin Abdul Rahman.

Annuar said the Kelantan people would also like to witness the changes in the state as announced by Dr Mahathir.

"I held the position for a long time, almost 12 years. Let the new faces take over the position to enable BN win in Kelantan later. I welcome the move and I am not offended," he added.

Meanwhile Zaid said he would help Umno and BN in the coming general election.

"Umno will explain the matter to all party members and the prime minister's decision."

Mustapa urged all Umno members to concentrate on the pending national election to enable BN win in the Pas-led state.

"All parties in Kelantan are satisfied with the new names and gave their opinions on the appointments.

"Now Umno comprise old and new faces, and all members assured to cooperate within the party," he said.

Umno veteran leader and also the Gua Musang division chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah hoped all quarters would accept the new appointments.

Members should consolidate to bring the "wind of change" to Kelantan as Dr Mahathir wished.

"All parties need to give their cooperation to those who lead."

-- BERNAMA

ZI BD VP