

16 JAN 2003

Mahathir-Kelantan

ZAID IBRAHIM REPLACES ANNUAR AS KELANTAN UMNO DEPUTY HEAD

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Kota Baharu Umno Division Chief Zaid Ibrahim has taken over as Kelantan Umno Deputy head from Peringat Umno Division head Datuk Annuar Musa.

Zaid's appointment was announced by Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a news conference at the end of his two-day visit to Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir, who earlier met with members of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee for more than an hour, retained Datuk Mustapa Mohamed as Kelantan Umno Chief.

Also present at the news conference were Annuar and Gua Musang MP and Umno Division head Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and all other heads of Umno Division in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said as Umno President, he had the prerogative to appoint the Chairman of State Umno Liaison Committees and the deputy chiefs.

"Everyone has agreed to the appointments and have pledged their support," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said the appointments were aimed at having a combination of old and new faces so that Kelantan Umno would remain vibrant and earn the people's support.

"I think the Kelantan people are giving us the support but we have to change the leadership from time to time not because the older leaders are unable to perform but so as to give opportunities to new people," he said.

Asked if Zaid's name was proposed by Kelantan Umno, Dr Mahathir said Zaid was his choice.

He said the meeting also discussed Umno and Barisan Nasional strategies to win the state in the next general election.

Mustapa, who was also present announced the appointment of Tumpat Umno deputy head Mat Nawawi Mat Jusoh as State Umno Secretary replacing Kubang Kerian Umno head Tuan Mohd Hashim Tuan Yaacob.

Peringat Umno deputy head, Mohd Alwi Che Ahmad was appointed State Umno Information Chief replacing Machang Umno head Datuk Ismail Mamat.

Mustapa also announced the appointment of Bachok Umno deputy head Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin as State Umno Treasurer replacing Datuk Dr Nik Hussin Abdul Rahman.

Dr Awang Adek is the Chairman of Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).

-- BERNAMA

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