

11 MAR 2004

Election-BN (Perak)

TWO STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS DROPPED, FIVE MINISTERS CONTESTING
IN PERAK

IPOH, March 11 (Bernama) -- The Perak Barisan Nasional will
field 35

new faces in the general election but at least two state executive
councillors have been dropped.

Five of the new faces will contest parliamentary seats and 30,
state
seats with Umno having three candidates for parliamentary and 19 for
state
seats, MCA (five state), Gerakan (one parliamentary, three state),
People's
Progressive Party (PPP) (one parliamentary, one state) and MIC (two
state).

Five cabinet ministers, including Minister in the Prime
Minister's
Department Brig-Jen (R) Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin are
contesting
parliamentary seats in Perak.

Abdul Hamid, who was earlier appointed senator, will stand in
Parit
Buntar against the incumbent, PAS vice-president, Datuk Dr Hassan
Ali.

Perak BN chairman Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali is nearly
certain to
retain his post as menteri besar with his re-nomination for a state
seat
but will be shifting from Kenering to Pengkalan Hulu.

"All the names have been approved by BN chairman Datuk Seri
Abdullah
Ahmad Badawi. We thank him and also Gerakan for resolving the
problem in
Bukit Gantang," Tajol Rosli told a media conference here today.

The state executive councillors who are dropped are Agriculture
Committee chairman Datuk Azman Mahalan and Rural and Community
Development
Committee chairman Ainon Khariyah Mohamed Abas.

However, the fate of Culture, Tourism and Women Affairs
Committee
chairman, Datuk Mazidah Zakaria, is still not known although her
name has
been listed.

At first Tajol Rosli said the candidate for the Ayer Kuning seat
held
by Azman was still unknown while Mazidah would be standing in Hulu
Kinta.

However, after the media conference, he announced that the slot

for
Hulu Kinta would be left vacant for the moment and confirmed that
Azman
would be replaced by Tapah Umno division deputy head Shamsuddin Abu
Hassan.

Wanita Umno chief and International Trade and Industry Minister
Datuk
Seri Rafidah Aziz will defend her Kuala Kangsar parliamentary seat
while
Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul
Aziz will
stand in the Padang Rengas parliamentary constituency.

The presidents of the MIC, Gerakan and PPP will be contesting
parliamentary seats in Perak.

MIC president and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu will
defend
his Sungai Siput seat, Primary Industries Minister and Gerakan
president
Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik (Beruas) and Deputy Minister in the Prime
Minister's Department and PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas will
contest the
Taiping seat whose incumbent, Gerakan deputy president Datuk Kerk
Choo
Ting, will move to Johor.

Tajol Rosli said Gerakan agreed to give the PPP the Taiping seat
following strong opposition from the Bukit Gantang Umno division
which did
not want Kayveas to contest there.

"This is just for this election because Umno and Gerakan will
get back
the Bukit Gantang and Taiping seats in future elections. The
replacement
for PPP will be decided when the time comes," he said.

Gerakan will be fielding its Perak Wanita chief, Tan Lian Hoe,
in Bukit
Gantang which was held by Datuk Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan.

Tajol Rosli said nine Umno pro tem committee chiefs in Perak
were not
listed as candidates. They included Parit Buntar division pro tem
chief and
former Parit Buntar MP Datuk Abdul Rahman Suliman.

Among the new faces were former Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
deputy
vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Wan Hashim Wan Teh who will contest the
Gerik
parliamentary seat, Perak Umno Youth chief Datuk Dr Zambry Abdul
Kadir
(Pangkor state seat) and state Special Affairs Department director
Kapt (R)
Najmuddin Alias Al-Hafiz (Batu Kurau state seat).

Tanjong Malim Umno Youth chief Khusairi Abdul Talib will stand
in Slim,

replacing former state assembly speaker Datuk Seri Junus Wahid, Bagan Datok Umno pro tem deputy chief Datuk Shaarani Mohamad in Rungkup and Sungai Siput Umno pro tem vice-chief Ahamad Fakhir Adam in Lintang. All are state seats.

Pasir Salak Umno pro tem deputy chief Tajuddin Rahman will contest the Kampung Gajah state seat, replacing Aionn. Tajuddin was once suspended for involvement in money politics.

For the Parit parliamentary seat held by PAS, Tajol Rosli said the BN was fielding Nasaruddin Hashim as he was a local who was active in that constituency.

Among the other state leaders re-nominated were former menteri besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib (Pasir Salak), Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin (Bagan Serai), former Umno Youth leader Datuk Zahid Hamidi (Bagan Datok), Maltrade chairman Datuk Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah (Tambun) and Datuk Raja Ahmad Zainuddin Raja Omar (Larut).

MCA secretary-general Tan Sri Ting Chew Peh (Gopeng) and MIC vice-president Datuk S. Veerasingam (Tengah) were also re-nominated.

Perak MCA chairman Datuk Ong Ka Chuan will move to the Batu Gajah parliamentary constituency while his counterpart in the MIC, Datuk G. Rajoo, will contest in Hutan Melintang.

Tajol Rosli said the BN's aim to make a clean sweep of all the 24 parliamentary and 59 state seats might face a little problem especially with DAP chairman DAP Lim Kit Siang standing in the Ipoh Timor parliamentary constituency.

He said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would help in the campaigning on March 19, especially in Ipoh.

-- BERNAMA

AR AZE LD RHM JK