

10/06/2003

Abdul Rahman Ariffin is Kedah Umno secretary

M. Hamzah Jamaludin

ALOR STAR, Mon. - Former Kedah Exco member Datuk Abdul Rahman Ariffin is the new State Umno secretary and Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir is its new treasurer.

Menteri Besar and State Umno liaison chairman Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the appointments were announced during the State Umno liaison committee meeting last night.

When met today, Syed Razak said the reshuffle was minor and was made to strengthen the State Umno for the next general election.

Abdul Rahman, 49, who is Jitra division chief, replaced Datuk Osman Md Aji who is the State Culture, Arts, Tourism and Human Resources Committee chairman.

Abdul Rahman was appointed as Kedah Education, Youth and Sports Committee chairman after winning the Ayer Itam state seat in 1995.

However, he lost the seat to a Pas candidate in the 1999 election.

Mokhzani, 42, takes over from Syed Razak who temporarily held the seat after State Development Corporation chief executive officer Datuk Dr Abdul Ghani Shafie relinquished the post in March.

Mokhzani was formerly Umno Youth treasurer and Merbok Youth chief.

Syed Razak said the reshuffle was also to allow Osman to focus on his work as State executive councillor.

"It will also give him more time to serve his constituents," he said.

Syed Razak also announced the appointment of Tan Sri Azahari Taib as executive adviser for the State Umno election machinery and Senator Datuk Azmi Hamid as its voters registration chairman.

Abdul Rahman, when contacted, said he would give priority to efforts to improve the management of the State Umno and all of its divisions.

Abdul Rahman attended the meeting last night in his capacity as a committee member while Mokhzani was not seen at the meeting.