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Khalil: Umno confident of recapturing Kelantan

PENANG, Fri. - Umno is confident of taking over Pas-led Kelantan in the next general election, its secretary-general, Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, said today.

He said the national Umno leadership and Kelantan Umno had lined up several strategies to recapture it. "Umno is confident of winning in the next general election.

"We will garner as much support as possible from the people and ensure Umno rules Kelantan again," he said at a Press conference at a hotel here.

He, however, declined to reveal the strategies.

He was here to attend the Information Ministry's two-day retreat on the Long-Term Strategic Plan (2002-2012).

He said the major shake-up taking place in Kelantan Umno would ensure the party's victory.

"I believe our new office-bearers and key officers have the experience and expertise to lead the party.

"Also, with the confidence and support they have from the grassroots, they will definitely win," he said.

He added that it was important for all members to give their full co-operation to ensure the party's victory.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced a major shake-up of Kelantan Umno with the dropping of deputy head Datuk Annuar Musa and three other key office-bearers.

Others axed were Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaacob as secretary, Datuk Nik Hussain Ab Rahman (treasurer) and Datuk Ismail Mamat (information chief).

However, the position of Datuk Mustapa Mohamed as the State Umno chief remains.

Annuar's place has been taken over by Kota Baru Umno division chief Zaid Ibrahim, a lawyer based in Kuala Lumpur.

The newcomers are former Geting Assemblyman Nawawi Mat Jusoh, who is also Tumpat deputy division chief, Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman Datuk Awang Adek Hussin (Bachok deputy division chief) and Peringat deputy division chief Che Alwi Che Ahmad, respectively.

Meanwhile, Khalil, who is also Information Minister, said the corporatisation of Radio Televisyen Malaysia would be implemented this year.