

Pak Lah, Perlis MB sit out GE13, Zul Noordin is BN man for Shah Alam
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 — Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Perlis Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Md Isa Sabu will not be standing for elections in the May 5 polls while Perkasa's Datuk Zulkifli Nordin will be running on a Barisan Nasional (BN) ticket in the Shah Alam federal seat.

Abdullah, who was replaced as prime minister by Datuk Seri Najib Razak in April 2009, has decided to retire from politics after 35 years. He will be replaced in the Kepala Batas seat by Reezal Marican Naina Marican.

Md Isa is also not in BN's list of candidates as the ruling coalition seeks to put forward a number of new faces as potential state leaders.

In Kedah, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir will be BN's candidate in the Ayer Hitam state seat and is seen as a potential MB if the coalition can wrest the state from PAS.

BN also announced Dr Mazlan Ismail as its man to challenge Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in Permatang Pauh.

But the choice of Islamic hardliner Zulkifli for Shah Alam is seen as a move apparently aimed at tapping the predominantly conservative Malay electorate.

He will face off with PAS's Khalid Samad, a progressive Islamist, who won the seat in Election 2008 with a thin majority.

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