

**By-Election Takes Precedence Over Umno Election Contest, Says Mukhriz
Bernama
10 Oct, 2013**

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir said today the Sungai Limau state by-election in Kedah took precedence over his contest for an Umno vice-presidency in the party elections.

He said the by-election was more important as it was the first in the state under his leadership, and he wanted to ensure a victory for the Barisan Nasional (BN).

Mukhriz said the attention given to the by-election would curtail the time he would have to tour the country to garner support for himself in the run-up to the Umno elections on Oct 19.

Nomination for the Sungai Limau by-election is on Oct 23 and polling is on Nov 4.

"It looks like I may not have much time to meet my supporters at the divisional level. Besides contesting in the Umno elections, I am also taking charge of the party machinery for the by-election.

"The by-election comes close on the heels of the Umno elections. It is our responsibility to give preference to the by-election over the preparations to contest the party elections.

"As such, I may not come to Sabah again (to meet supporters before the Umno elections). I hope my supporters here understand this," he told a news conference here.

The Sungai Limau seat fell vacant following the death of former Kedah menteri besar Tan Sri Azizan Abdul Razak on Sept 26.

Azizan had held the seat since 1995 and, in the last general election, in May this year, beat Mohd Fazillah Mohd Ali of the BN by a majority of 2,774 votes to retain it.

Mukhriz, commenting on his visit to several Umno divisions in Sabah including Sepanggar, Kudat and Kota Marudu, said he had received a rousing reception.

Mukhriz said he had attended a session on the introduction of electoral candidates in Kota Kinabalu yesterday evening, at which Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman was also present.

"This evening, I will proceed to Sandakan before returning home. Sabah is an important state. In terms of (party) divisions, it has the second highest number in the country," he said.

Mukhriz said Sabah had proven to be BN's fixed deposit in any general election and "it is my hope that my visit garners the support of friends in Sabah".

He said he had always been accorded the best hospitality during his visits to Sabah, and expressed the hope that he would be able to obtain votes from several divisions in the state.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=984715>