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'IT'S FINAL'

'NO CHANGE TO BN LINE-UP'

Najib has approved all candidates on list, says Zahid

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ALL Barisan Nasional candidates for the 14th General Election have signed their appointment letters, said Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The BN deputy chairman said the names had been finalised and no changes would be entertained.

"Even though there are efforts by some individuals and their groups to lobby and force us to make changes, BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak has finalised and agreed 100 per cent to the candidates named.

"He has approved the appointment letters which the candidates have signed.

"It is stated in the party's con-

stitution that if anyone, whether in Umno or any other component party, is not satisfied with the candidacy of one person, he can lose his membership in the party," he said after visiting Bagan Datuk Waterfront.

Zahid said a special officer to his political secretary would be joining PKR soon as he was dissatisfied at not being chosen to contest the Sungai Besar parliamentary seat.

The officer, Muslimin Yahaya, had served under the late deputy plantation industries and commodities minister Tan Sri Noriah Kasnon, before joining the home minister's political secretary's office.

"I have advised him to be patient if he wants to contest in Sungai Besar.

"Unfortunately, he has decided to join PKR to contest the Sungai Besar seat.

"It was his personal decision to join PKR and I wish him the best. I will leave this matter to the Umno leaders in Sungai Besar division to settle this matter," he said. **Additional reporting by Shaarani Ismail**

CANDIDATES AND SUPPORTERS

'Mind your manners during nomination today'

BAGAN DATUK: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi urged all parties, independent candidates and their supporters to mind their manners during nomination day today.

Zahid, who is also home minister, said he instructed the police to maintain peace and order and not to take sides if any commotion or riot erupted among supporters.

"I hope during the nomination process, there are no untoward incidents in the country.

"The state police chiefs have been directed to uphold peace.

"This is a democratic process... we may have different opinions in politics, but we are being watched by outsiders and we need to uphold our image," he said at the Bagan Datuk Waterfront.

Zahid said he had been informed that a large number of nomination forms had been purchased from the Election Commission for the 14th General Election.

"I hope that their supporters, whether large groups or small, or those who become independent candidates, remember to behave properly during the nomination process," he said.



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi at the handover of the underground water project to the Perak Water Department at Sekolah Menengah Sains Bagan Datuk yesterday. BERNAMA PIX

NEW SOURCE

'Underground water can solve shortage'

BAGAN DATUK: Malaysia can resolve its water shortage issue by turning to underground water as a new source of supply, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said.

While the initial capital to start an underground water programme might be sizeable, the cost to maintain it was lower.

"Underground water is easy to manage as it does not rely on seasons, whether dry or wet.

"There is a state which has its own water source, but it is not managed properly by its leaders," Zahid said, without naming the state, although it was assumed that he was referring to Selangor, which a few months ago faced a water crisis.

Zahid was speaking at the handover of the underground water project here to Perak Water Department (LAP) at Sekolah Menengah Sains Bagan Datuk yesterday.

Present were Perak Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Energy and Water Committee chairman Datuk Zainol Fadzi Paharuddin, Department of Minerals and Geoscience (JMG) director-general Datuk Shahar Effendi Abdullah Azizi and LAP general manager Datuk Mohd Yusof Mohd Isa.

Zahid said a holistic approach must be immediately taken by all state water authorities along with JMG to continue looking for water sources, even if the source was 100m underground.

"I hope the states that have taken over the local water manage-



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi inspecting samples of underground water in Bagan Datuk yesterday.

ment will decide whether to let a private company or their own water department to run it."

He added that the government could not afford to allow the water crisis to affect the public and industries.

"How can a tropical country lack water? This happens because of poor management," he said, adding that the particular state must not blame others.

"I urge the state to rethink its action of accusing other parties, especially the Federal Government, for its water woes because this is its own decision to take over the water concession."

He reminded all quarters not to politicise the water issue because "it is the people's right to have water".



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