

RAHIM
BM

124

BY RACHMAN NORDIN AND IDZAN ISMAIL

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 7⁸ (BERNAMA) -- HAJI ABDUL RAHIM ABU BAKAR TODAY RESIGNED AS MENTERI BESAR OF PAHANG AND WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY SENIOR EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DATUK HAJI ABDUL RASHID ABDUL RAHMAN.

PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT, SAID HAJI ABDUL RAHIM WOULD REMAIN AS THE ASSEMBLYMAN FOR BESERAH AND AS A MEMBER OF THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, DISCLOSED THIS TO REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HERE.

HAJI ABDUL RAHIM WILL BE ON A ^{THREE} TWO-MONTH LEAVE. HE WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES FOR A COURSE. --BERNAMA MORE 1410/SZ

RAHIM 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A DECISION WAS MADE THAT HAJI ABDUL RAHIM RESIGN FROM HIS POST TO EASE THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN PAHANG.

TODAY'S UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING UNANIMOUSLY AGREED WITH DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S DECISION, HAJI RAHIM WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WITH THE RESIGNATION, HAJI ABDUL RAHIM WOULD ALSO RELINQUISH THE POST OF PAHANG UMNO DEPUTY LIAISON CHIEF.

THE POST OF UMNO LIAISON CHIEF FOR THE STATE IS HELD BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

ON HAJI ABDUL RAHIM'S SUCCESSOR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SULTAN OF PAHANG HAD ALREADY GIVEN HIS CONSENT TO DATUK RASHID AND DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FELT THAT HE WAS THE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POST.

REPORTS FROM KUANTAN SAID, DATUK RASHID WILL BE SWORN IN AS THE NEW MENTERI BESAR ON WEDNESDAY. - BERNAMA MORE 1455/SZ

N052 (F)
RAHIM 3 KUALA LUMPUR 11/11/81

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT NO NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR WOULD BE APPOINTED TO REPLACE DATUK ABDUL RASHID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT HE WAS +SATISFIED WITH HAJI ABDUL RAHIM'S PERFORMANCE AS MENTERI BESAR,+

HE SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO COME OUT WITH AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE HAJI RAHIM ISSUE.

HE ADDED THAT UMNO LEADERS IN PAHANG HAD ASKED HIM TO RESOLVE THE CRISIS AND HE HOPED THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE COULD NOT ANTICIPATE THE REACTION TO THE DECISION, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE SUPPORTERS OF HAJI ABDUL RAHIM.

+I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE EFFECT WOULD BE BUT WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION+.

—BERNAMA 1599/AN

N056 (F)
RAHIM 4 KUALA LUMPUR 11/11/81

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT BEING A POLITICIAN HE WAS AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISION.

HE SAID IN THE PRESENT CRISIS, THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WAS THE RESIGNATION OF HAJI ABDUL RAHIM AS THE MENTERI BESAR.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DISMISSED ALLEGATIONS THAT DATUK ABDUL RASHID'S NAME HAD ONCE BEEN FORWARDED AS HAJI ABDUL RAHIM'S SUCCESSOR, BUT WAS REJECTED BY THE ISTANA.

HE SAID DATUK ABDUL RASHID'S NAME WAS SUBMITTED TO THE SULTAN OF PAHANG ONLY LAST WEEK.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO DENIED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE ISTANA INTO MAKING SUCH DECISION AND ADDED THAT IT WAS ONLY A NORMAL PRACTICE TO KEEP THE SULTAN OR THE REGENT INFORMED OF HIS INTENDED DECISION ON THE ISSUE.

—BERNAMA 1549/AN

N075 (F)
RAHIM 5 KUALA LUMPUR 11/11/81

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT SEE OR EXPECT ANY TREND OF THE ISTANA INTERFERING IN POLITICS OR ANY MOVE BY THE ISTANA TO DETERMINE ONLY THOSE IN ITS FAVOUR WOULD BE APPOINTED MENTERI BESAR.

+IT IS ONLY NORMAL FOR US TO GET A MENTERI BESAR WHO CAN GET ALONG WELL WITH THE HEAD OF THE STATE,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF MINOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE ISTANA BUT STRESSED THAT THEY WERE NEVER REALLY BIG.

ON THE PAHANG ISSUE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE DID NOT BLAME ANYONE. -- BERNAMA 1655/SZ