

10 JUN 1996
Anwar-Sanusi

ANWAR HOPES SANUSI'S APPOINTMENT WELL ACCEPTED BY KEDAH UMNO MEMBERS

KUANTAN, June 10 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim hopes that the appointment of Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid as the new Menteri Besar to succeed Tan Sri Osman Aroff will be well accepted by Kedah Umno members and Kedah state assemblymen.

"I believe Sanusi will be able to carry out his duties, taking into account and respecting the views and sensitivities of colleagues in Kedah.

"If he can really do this, I am confident that we can concentrate on developing the state and strengthen the party's machinery in Kedah," he told reporters after a meeting with Pahang Umno liaison committee members at Rumah Negeri here.

Anwar expressed the highest gratitude to Osman for his contributions and services.

He said that Sanusi is expected to be sworn-in in the middle of the month when the date has been consented to by the Sultan of Kedah.

He said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had made the decision on the matter and conveyed his decision to him yesterday.

Anwar said that he informed Osman last night and reported the matter to Dr Mahathir this morning.

Asked whether Osman will be given another post, Anwar said: "That we will have to wait for the Prime Minister to return from his vacation...we will make an announcement."

Umno vice president, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he believes that Sanusi, with the confidence by Dr Mahathir in him, could discharge his duties as Menteri Besar well although previously Kedah state assemblymen were not agreeable to his appointment.

"But they have accepted the fact that this is the prerogative and discretion of the Prime Minister," he said.

Najib said that Sanusi's main task would be to promote a good working environment and unite Umno in Kedah and ensure that Umno's stability is not affected.

"I am confident that if this is given priority, he should be able to carry out his duties well," he said while thanking Osman who as Menteri Besar has brought many changes in the state. -- BERNAMA

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