

29 NOV 1996
Rozali-Exco
FOUR EXCO MEN AGREE TO RESIGN

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- The four executive council members in the PAS-led Kelantan government have agreed to resign their posts to abide by the decision of the Umno Supreme Council which met last night.

They are Deputy Menteri Besar II Datuk Rozali Isohak, who is also assemblyman for Dabong, Nik Mustapha Nik Loding (Gual Periok), Daud Jaafar (Jelawat) and Mohd Noor Ahmad (Pulai Chondong).

The council at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur, chaired by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, resolved that the four former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) should resign immediately, since Umno has not set up a coalition with PAS to rule the state.

They were appointed exco when PAS and S46, affiliated with the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU) formed the state government following their victory in the 1995 general elections.

However, PAS later broke its relations with S46 after its move to amend the state constitution to remove the immunity of the Sultan of Kelantan was strongly opposed by S46, defending the ruler.

Following the crisis, S46 decided to dissolve itself in the interest of Malay unity last October with all its members including the four exco, led by their president, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, returning to the Umno fold.

Rozali, also the former Kelantan S46 liaison chairman, however told reporters at his residence that he and the three others would only tender their resignation once they received the official letter from Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik.

The four would also meet for discussion tomorrow and would probably meet Datuk Sabbaruddin as soon as possible to get the letter, Rozali said.

This would enable him to seek an audience with the Sultan of Kelantan for the ruler's assent for them to resign.

Rozali said the Umno supreme council's decision was not surprising as it had been expected, adding that they had intended to resign for some time and did not wish to remain much longer with PAS in the government.

Apart from this, he said all former S46 members holding positions in the government would also resign, or would not renew their contracts.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat welcomed the Umno Supreme Council's decision for the four state exco to resign with immediate effect.

He told reporters that he was thankful for the decision and the announcement by Dr Mahathir, which he said was "wise", but described the reluctance of the four exco to resign as "a bit strange."

Met by reporters after his usual Friday lecture at the PAS office here, he said not a single government in the world would allow another political party to meddle with the administration of a government chosen by the people.

Nik Aziz said the Umno decision was a victory for PAS in its fight to get the four assemblymen to resign.

If they still refused to go, it would mean they would not heed the directive of their president and such stubborn people had no place in this world, he added. -- BERNAMA

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