

29 NOV 1996

Ghani-Umno

GHANI PLEDGES TO WORK HARD FOR UMNO

JOHOR BAHRU, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- Newly-appointed Johor Umno Liaison chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman today pledged to work hard for the party's interests with the cooperation of party members at all levels.

"The appointment is a honour to me," said Ghani, who is also Johor Menteri Besar.

His appointment to the post replacing Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was announced by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after the supreme council meeting last night.

"As State Umno chief, I will ensure that the government is the party and the party is the government," he said when asked to comment on his appointment after the State Legislative Assembly meeting.

Meanwhile, the assembly unanimously approved the withdrawal of RM383.14 million from the consolidated funds for the operating expenditure under the 1997 Supply Enactment.

In KOTA TINGGI, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar described as very meaningful his appointment to the supreme council, the party's highest decision-making body.

He said he would offer his best to the party.

"I am thankful to Dr Mahathir for appointing me as I know how difficult it would have been for the party president to make the decision," he told reporters after opening a Quran reading session at Felda Papan Timur, near here, today.

He said there were many eligible and qualified people in Umno who could serve the party but he was thankful for being chosen to continue the party's struggle.

On Ghani's appointment as the Johor Umno Liaison chief, he said the appointment befits his position as Menteri Besar.

He also said the appointment of Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik as Umno secretary-general was appropriate and expressed the hope that he would be able to face the challenges of the post.

Ghani said party members at all levels should support Dr Mahathir's decision to appoint Sabbaruddin for the post.

"I also believe Umno members in Johor will support the appointment," he added. -- BERNAMA

MH TS