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LEAD Osman-Resign

OSMAN AROFF TO RESIGN AS KEDAH MB ON SUNDAY

ALOR SETAR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff today announced that he will resign as the Kedah Menteri Besar on Sunday.

He told reporters this at 2.40pm after a meeting, which lasted almost one hour, with 28 Kedah Barisan Nasional (BN) state assemblymen at the State Operations Room in Wisma Darul Aman here.

Five other BN state assemblymen did not attend the meeting. They are Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid (Kuah), Badri Yunus (Tanjung Dawai), Datuk Beh Heng Seong (Gurun), Abdul Rahman Ariffin (Ayer Hitam) and Tan Hong Eng (Bakar Arang).

Osman said he decided on the announcement after getting the agreement of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Department in Kuala Lumpur last Thursday.

"I wish to make an announcement...I am glad to announce that I, after discussing with and getting the agreement of the right honourable Prime Minister, have decided to relinquish the Kedah Menteri Besar's post on June 16.

"This means that my last day as Menteri Besar is June 15."

"I hope all Kedah Umno members and also elected representatives will continue to give their solid and undivided support to the party president.

"I wish to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to all parties, the elected representatives, government officers, Umno members and all BN members who have extended their cooperation and support to me throughout my tenure as the Kedah Menteri Besar.

"To the people and government officers, whether at state or federal level, I also wish to record my heartfelt thanks," he said.

Osman said the cooperation he received had facilitated the performance of his duties and responsibilities at the helm of the state government for more than 11 years.

Osman, the longest serving assemblyman in Kedah who was first elected in 1969, was sworn in as Kedah's fourth Menteri Besar on Jan 28 1985.

Asked when his successor would be sworn in, Osman said he did not know because this would be determined by the Sultan of Kedah's office.

He said his position as the Kedah Umno Liaison Committee chairman would be determined by the party president.

"The question of the state Umno Liaison Committee chairman has not been discussed yet," he said.

Asked on the progress of Kedah under his stewardship, Osman said he was very satisfied with the achievements made.

"I am happy to the extent of what my colleagues and I could implement. I think we have transformed it from a backward state to a quite rapidly developing one," he said.

"I think this is a success, a good achievement due to the political stability in Kedah."

On his plans, Osman said he wanted to take a rest after having served for so long.

He said his resignation would enable him to pay greater attention to his family. -- BERNAMA

MFJ YBY