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Osman-Profile

OSMAN, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR SINCE 1985

ALOR SETAR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, who has submitted his resignation as Kedah Menteri Besar, succeeded Datuk Seri Syed Nahar Shahabudin for the post in 1985.

Osman, 55, is the longest serving assemblyman in the state. He contested for the first time in the 1969 general elections as an Alliance candidate for the Jitra seat.

He beat Ayub Ishak of PAS for the seat which he successfully defended in seven general elections including the 1995 general elections.

He joined the State Executive Council in 1972 and served as acting Menteri Besar for 42 days in 1976 when Datuk Seri (now Tun) Syed Ahmad Shahabudin went overseas for holidays.

He was head of the Kubang Pasu Umno division from 1969 to 1972. The division is now headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad with Osman as its deputy head.

Osman had an early start in politics. He was only 16 when he became the secretary of Tanah Merah Umno branch in 1956.

Two years later, he helped to set up the Jitra Umno division, then known as Kedah Utara Umno division, and became its first Youth leader. The division is now known as Kubang Pasu.

In 1963, after completing his studies in political science in the United States, Osman was appointed assistant secretary of the Malaya Umno Youth, succeeding Hamzah Alang who had died.

Son of a farmer, Osman was born on Nov 23, 1940 in Kampung Kelubi, Kubang Pasu. He had his early education at Sekolah Melayu Jitra where he completed his Standard Four before continuing his studies at Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid, Alor Setar in 1951. He passed his Senior Cambridge examination in 1958.

Osman was with the Taiwanese Counsulate in Kuala Lumpur for three years before resigning to contest in the 1969 general elections.

He is married to Puan Sri Hajah Azizah Abdul Hamid. They have three sons and a daughter. --BERNAMA

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