

10 JUN 1996  
LEADALL Sanusi-MB  
SANUSI JUNID NAMED AS NEW KEDAH MB

KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Former Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid was named today as the new Kedah Menteri Besar to replace Tan Sri Osman Aroff.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has obtained the consent of the Sultan of Kedah for the appointment, according to a statement by the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Datuk Abdul Aziz Ismail, this afternoon.

The date for Sanusi to be sworn in is being arranged by the Kedah State Secretary's Office and Istana Anak Bukit.

Sanusi received his appointment letter from Dr Mahathir at the Sultan Abdul Aziz International Airport in Subang this morning before the Prime Minister left for a three-week holiday abroad.

Met at his residence in Alor Setar this afternoon, Sanusi said he was grateful for the appointment and thanked the Prime Minister for his confidence in him.

"I liken this appointment to a caesarian operation done by a medical specialist," he said, referring to the obstacles he had to go through.

Sanusi returned to Alor Setar this afternoon and, by a fitting coincidence, there was a kenduri (feast) being held at his Jalan Sultanah residence for the wedding of his brother-in-law.

Meanwhile, earlier in the afternoon, Osman announced at a news conference in Alor Setar that the resignation letter which he had submitted to the Prime Minister some time ago would become effective this Sunday, June 16.

He said this to reporters at 2.40pm after a nearly hour-long meeting with 28 Kedah state assemblymen from Barisan Nasional at the State Operations Room of Wisma Darul Aman.

Osman said he made the announcement after obtaining the agreement of the Prime Minister at their meeting at the Prime Minister's Department in Kuala Lumpur last Thursday.

He said: "I am glad to announce that I, after discussing with and getting the agreement of the 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 term as the Menteri Besar.

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

Sanusi, 52, contested and won the Kuala state seat in the April general election last year after heading two ministries at federal level.

His return to active politics at the state level sparked off speculations that he would take over the post of Menteri Besar.

However, his route to the top became full of obstacles after 22 assemblymen from Umno demanded that the leadership retain Osman.

They later withdrew their demand and apologised to the Prime Minister and left it to him to appoint whoever he wished as Menteri Besar.

Before this incident, Sanusi had suffered another blow when he failed

to secure re-election as head of the Umno Langkawi division.

Despite all these, there were still many who hoped Sanusi, who is renowned for innovative ideas such as the eat more ulam campaign and a successful commercial promotion of young coconut, would lead the state administration and take Kedah to a higher level of more rapid development.

The announcement of his appointment as the fifth Menteri Besar of Kedah since Independence has put to rest the speculations.

Osman, 55, has headed the state government for more than 11 years since 1985 when he took over from Datuk Seri Syed Nahar Shahabuddin. -- BERNAMA  
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