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Sanusi-Fair  
SANUSI PLEDGES A FAIR LEADERSHIP

ALOR SETAR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar-designate Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid today pledged to lead the state government fairly and justly without practising favouritism.

He hoped that all parties, including elected representatives and state government officers, would give their cooperation to ensure Kedah's continued progress and the attainment of its development targets.

Sanusi, the Kuah state assemblyman and former Agriculture Minister, said he would scrutinise all the state's development plans.

The plans would be implemented, intensified or terminated according to the situation, he told reporters at his residence here.

Sanusi said when he met the Prime Minister in Kuala Lumpur this morning, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had expressed his hopes on development in Kedah.

He said Dr Mahathir told him of the things he should do after he was appointed the Menteri Besar.

Sanusi said he received his letter of appointment as Menteri Besar at "Sri Perdana" this morning before the Prime Minister left for vacation overseas.

He said the letter mentioned about his appointment as the Kedah Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman but did not touch on the Kedah Umno chief's post.

Sanusi thanked the Prime Minister for the trust given him to lead the state government.

He described the appointment as essentially the same as the task entrusted him when he was a minister as both jobs involved implementing programmes by the BN government.

"In leading the Kedah state government, I will try to be fair to all races by not allowing any favouritism in the administration.

"I hope all BN elected representatives and government officers will give their cooperation to the state government," he said.

Sanusi said he had not yet received a letter regarding his swearing-in but learnt that "it will be on this June 16."

On the "changes" to be made by him, Sanusi said it was too early for him to decide.

He said he had no problem working with the present state Exco line-up and also fellow assemblymen from the BN.

"This is because I myself, although having been in politics for a long time, prefer to run my ministry as a chief executive.

"So, my consideration is more on the willingness to work...if one wishes to work hard for the religion, race and country, and if he wishes to work for the interests of the party and people, it will not be a problem," he said.

Sanusi said it was not fair for someone newly appointed to lead a state government to set heads rolling.

"We have to evaluate their respective performance and cooperate with all parties to see their strengths and weaknesses."

Asked to comment on the action of 22 state assemblymen who had signed a memorandum opposing any move to appoint him as the Menteri Besar, Sanusi said this would not pose a problem.

"If I had been invited to the tahlil, I too would have signed," he said.

He said most of the elected representatives in Kedah were his friends

and they had helped each other before.

"We were actually confronted with a situation of having to make a decision and normally when in a group, when there is group dynamic, we usually did not want to be different from others in the group.

"But, when we went back and thought it over, we would realise that what we had done was just an incident in an episode which need not be remembered forever."

Meanwhile, a state government source said the swearing-in would be held at Istana Anak Bukit, near here, at 9am on Sunday. -- BERNAMA

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