

16 JUN 1996  
Sanusi-Exco  
SANUSI TO RESHUFFLE KEDAH EXCO

ALOR SETAR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, who was sworn in as the Kedah Menteri Besar today, said there will be a change in the portfolios of the eight state executive council (Exco) members.

"A change in the portfolios will take place... wasn't it expected?" he told a news conference after speaking live over RTM news at the RTM Complex here.

He said the reshuffle was not only aimed at streamlining the administration but also to distribute duties in accordance with the exco members' capabilities.

Under the present lineup, many projects were handled by a single Exco member, he said.

"If it's like this, only one Exco member works...I want to distribute one project to each Exco member and have already discussed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about some of the projects that are to be implemented," he added.

Among the projects he had suggested is a centre to distribute beef during Hari Raya Haji like the one in Mecca, Sanusi said.

The eight Exco members are Datuk Abdul Rahman Ibrahim (who holds the Public Utilities, Works and Communication portfolio), Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain (Culture, the Arts, Tourism and Entrepreneurship), Syeikh Alias Mustafa (Religious Affairs), Abdul Rahman Ariffin (Education, Youth and Sports Development).

Abdullah Hasnan Kamaruddin (Local Government and Aviation), Abdul Razak Hashim (Agriculture and Rural development), Datuk Beh Heng Seong (Housing, Industrialisation and Environment) and V.Saravanan (Health and Social Development).

Asked if he would retain all the eight members in the present lineup, Sanusi said he would have to ask them first whether they wanted to serve with him.

"Their positions depend on they themselves and not on me.....I can cooperate with everyone," he said.

On the two additional Exco member posts approved by the State Asseby recently, Sanusi said: "They will be filled... be patient, I could wait for 14 months (before being appointed as the Menteri Besar) surely they can wait for two or three weeks."

The Menteri Besar also said he wants to have a people oriented government in Kedah,

On the opposition to his appointment by certain people, like the 22 exco members who rejected his leadership some time back, Sanusi said their action actually showed that they were disciplined.

"They are disciplined ... previously they supported Tan Sri Osman Aroff because the Prime Minister appointed him (as the Menteri Besar), now the Prime Minister has appointed me, and they support, therefore they have a consistent stand," he said. -- BERNAMA

MZM MFJ