

07 MAY 1996

Kedah-Assemblymen

SEVEN KEDAH ASSEMBLYMEN PLEDGE SUPPORT AFTER MEETING PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Seven Kedah state assemblymen who met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office this morning have pledged loyalty to him in connection with the appointment of the new Menteri Besar.

The member for Tanjung Dawai, Encik Badri Yunos, who described the meeting as between "children and their father", said they would leave the decision to Dr Mahathir.

"As party members, we are loyal to the leader," he told reporters when asked whether the assemblymen would give their support to the new Menteri Besar.

Dr Mahathir announced yesterday that Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff had submitted his resignation letter but that he had not decided on whether to accept it or not.

The Prime Minister also said he might meet Umno assemblymen and Members of Parliament from Kedah to obtain their views before he made the decision.

Umno has 26 seats in the 36-member state assembly.

It is understood the seven assemblymen who met Dr Mahathir today comprised the first group and other leaders from Kedah will see him separately in stages.

Apart from Badri, the others in today's group were Abdul Razak Hashim (Gua Tempedak), Hassan Bulat (Padang Matsirat), Mohamed Hadzir Jaafar (Jeneri), Jamaluddin Yusof (Pantai Merdeka), Che Pora Omar (Merbau Pulas) and Abdul Lateh Mohamed Saman (Kuala Nerang).

The assemblymen met Dr Mahathir individually, said Badri before he drove out of the gate of the Prime Minister's Department with three other assemblymen in his car at about 12.30 pm.

Asked whether the name of Osman's successor was mentioned at the meeting, he said: "For that, ask the PM himself."

However, Hassan, who left the meeting earlier at 10 am, told reporters no successor was named.

"This meeting is to affirm our loyalty to the party president ... we will support him fully," Hassan said.

The MP for Yan, Datuk Badruddin Amiruddin, who was seen driving out of the PM's Department gate 10 minutes later, also told reporters that he supported whoever Dr Mahathir chose as Menteri Besar.

"He's the boss," he said.

Recently, 22 Kedah Umno assemblymen sent a memorandum to Dr Mahathir objecting to the replacement of Osman but they later apologised to the Prime Minister and agreed to let him decide on the issue.

The Kedah Umno MPs also left the decision to Dr Mahathir. -- BERNAMA
AZZ CTL