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Rozali-Posts

THREE KELANTAN EXCO MEMBERS FROM FORMER S46 TO QUIT TOMORROW

KOTA BAHARU, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- Three Kelantan executive councillors from the former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46), who joined Umno after the dissolution of their party in October, announced today they will resign from all their posts in the state administration with effect from tomorrow.

The announcement by Datuk Rozali Isohak, who is the Deputy Menteri Besar II, ended a six-month impasse in the state government between PAS and the former S46.

The two parties were the main allies in the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah loose coalition which ousted the Umno-led state government in the 1990 general election but they split early this year, followed by S46 disbanding and most of its members joining Umno.

Rozali said he and the other executive councillors submitted their resignation letters to Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat this morning through his private secretary Haji Alui Abdul Aziz.

"Effective tomorrow, in line with the directive of the Umno president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and the (Umno) Supreme Council, we will no longer be members of the state Exco," he said at a news conference at the Umno office here.

Also present at the news conference were the other two Exco members, Nik Mustapha Nik Loding and Daud Jaafar, and Kelantan Umno deputy chief Datuk Annuar Musa who is the Rural Development Minister.

Another former S46 Exco member, Kapt (R) Mohd Nor Ahmad, died on Dec 4.

Meanwhile, Nik Aziz said he would seek an urgent audience with the Sultan of Kelantan to present his candidates for the four Exco posts for the ruler's consent.

Speaking to reporters after closing the state-level Prayer Month programme here, Nik Aziz said he felt relief that the "thorny problem" had been resolved.

Rozali said copies of their resignation letters were submitted today to the sultan and Dr Mahathir.

He said the sultan gave his consent to their decision when they had an audience with the ruler at Istana Mahkota here last Tuesday.

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"We were informed that Tuanku had no objection (to the resignation) and left it to our discretion as Tuanku did not want to interfere in the matter," he said.

In a two-page statement signed by all three Exco members and read to the media, Rozali listed several reasons for their resignation.

Besides having joined Umno and in compliance with the party directive, he said, their decision to quit was made because the PAS-led state government had failed to fulfil its promise to strengthen Islamic teachings.

He said the state government had failed to implement the Hudud law (Islamic penal code) passed by the State Assembly three years ago and instead had politicised it.

The PAS leaders also did not form a committee to ensure that the state government was free from corruption and irregularities.

They were also weak in implementing development programmes to help people in the state.

In addition, he said, the state leadership continued to cause enmity with various groups, including government officers, due to differences in political ideology and created a crisis with the palace.

"The opportunity given to PAS to govern Kelantan for more than 25 years (1959-1978 and 1990-1996) is enough to show the people how weak the PAS leadership is. In this connection, we do not want to face questions from our supporters by continuing to stay on with them," he said.

Asked why it took time to quit their Exco posts even though the Umno Supreme Council issued the directive to them last week, Rozali said there were unavoidable circumstances, including the death of Mohd Nor and the importance of remaining in the state government "to safeguard the position of several government officers" who depended on them. -- BERNAMA

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