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Umno-Appointment

ZAINAL ABIDIN AND IBRAHIM ALI APPOINTED UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- State Assemblyman for Melor Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir and Senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali have been appointed Umno Supreme Council members.

Their letters of appointment signed by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday were sent to them today, said Umno executive secretary Datuk Yaakob Mohamad.

"They have been asked to attend the Supreme Council meeting on Jan 11 and also to be sworn in," he told Bernama at his office here.

At the first Umno Supreme Council meeting held after the party election on Thursday, Dr Mahathir announced only eight out of the 10 appointed members of the Supreme Council.

For Ibrahim, 45, who is former Member of Parliament for Pasir Mas, this will be his second term. Zainal Abidin, 53, was appointed for the first time.

The eight appointed Supreme Council members announced earlier are Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Datuk Syed Hamid Jaafar Albar, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samd, Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib dan Tan Sri Hussein Ahmad.

Ibrahim, when contacted, said that he was very grateful to Dr Mahathir for the trust placed upon him.

"My immediate task as a Supreme Council member is to continue to speak without fear or favour for the people and the party.

"I will also continue to monitor the situation in Kelantan to strengthen Umno's presence there," he said.

Asked how he felt when his name was not in the list of appointed members announced by the Umno president after the last Supreme Council meeting, Ibrahim said he took it easy.

"Because I knew a lot of leaders who are not in the Umno Supreme Council contested important posts. The Prime Minister must be facing difficulties in choosing candidates but I always have faith," he said.

Ibrahim occupied the 26th position in the contest for the 25 seats in the Supreme Council in the party election.

Zainal Abidin was 44th in the list of candidates.

He was director of Pusat Islam from 1991 to April last year when he resigned to contest in the Melor constituency in Kelantan in the general election.

He defeated Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) candidate Khairuldden Mat Adam and Angkatan Keinsafan Islam Malaysia (Akim) candidate Tuan Mohamad Tuan Soh to win with a majority of 331 votes.

He has also served as the acting director-general of the Islamic Affairs Division in the Prime Minister's Department.

When contacted here, Zainal Abidin said that his appointment was a token of appreciation and recognition for the people of Kelantan by Dr Mahathir.

He said that the decision by Dr Mahathir to appoint him and Ibrahim proved that the federal government had not neglected the people of Kelantan and in fact gave priority to them in various aspects.

Zainal Abidin said that he was surprised when informed by the party of his appointment last night as he never expected to be appointed to the Supreme Council for the current term.

He thanked Dr Mahathir for his trust in him and pledged to give his

best in the interest of the party, race and nation.

"At the federal level, I will try to help enhance the development of Islam in the country while at the state level, I will strive to forge greater unity among party members and leaders in efforts to strengthen Umno's presence in Kelantan," said Zainal Abidin, who is the opposition leader in the Kelantan State Assembly.

-- BERNAMA

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