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Abu Hassan expected to announce new Selangor exco line-up

KLANG, Thurs. - Menteri Besar-designate Datuk Hassan Omar is expected to announce the new Selangor Executive Council line-up tomorrow.

According to a statement released by the Information Department, Abu Hassan will make the announcement at a Press conference at the State Secretariat Building at 10am.

According to an aide of Abu Hassan who declined to be identified, the announcement would be made in the morning to enable the new Exco members to be sworn in together with Abu Hassan.

Abu Hassan is scheduled to be sworn in as the new Selangor Menteri Besar before the Sultan of Selangor at the Istana Alam Shah at 3pm.

Asked if any member in the present line-up would be dropped, the aide said only the Sultan, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Abu Hassan himself had that information.

He said Abu Hassan had had several meetings with Anwar to discuss the new State Exco line-up.

Abu Hassan also met with the Sultan yesterday evening to discuss the same matter, the aide added.

Rumours are rife that Abu Hassan will drop at least two of the present Exco members.

There are also two additional Exco posts which were approved by the State Legislative Assembly and which were left vacant by Abu Hassan's predecessor, Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

One of the additional posts is expected to be given to either an MCA State Assemblyman or to the sole Gerakan representative, the State Assemblyman for Bukit Lanjan, Dr Pius Martin.

The eight current Exco members are Datuk Zainal Abidin Dahalan (Agriculture and Fisheries, Rural Development and Bumiputera Economy Development), Datuk Mohd Aini Taib (Budget, Finance and Local Authority), Datuk Tang See Hang (Village Development and Health) and S. Rajagopal (Unity, Estate and Mine Workers Housing and Consumer Affairs).

Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad (Research and Development, Education and Training, Information and Human Development), Datin Paduka Rakibah Abdul Manap (Infrastructure, Squatter and Women's Affairs), Ch'ng Toh Eng (Science, Technology and Environment and Community Development) and Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar (Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports).

Abu Hassan, who is the former Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister and Member of Parliament for Kuala Selangor, became eligible to assume the post of Selangor Menteri Besar after he won in the Permatang State by-election on May 29.

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