

22 MAY 1997

Abu Zahar-Pledge

ABU ZAHAR SURPRISED OVER APPOINTMENT, PLEDGES TO DO HIS BEST

MELAKA, May 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin today described his appointment as the new chief minister of Melaka as a heavy responsibility for him to shoulder and pledged to do his best.

He said he was grateful to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the trust they had in him.

"I was informed of the appointment by Datuk Seri Anwar who phoned me this morning," he told a news conference at a hotel here.

Although surprised at being named as the new chief minister, he said he viewed the appointment as a normal matter in his political struggle, he said.

Abu Zahar, 57, who is the state assemblyman for Merlimau and the executive councillor in charge of works and public utilities, will be Melaka's eight chief minister.

The Jasin division Umno chief is expected to receive his letter of appointment from Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin at a ceremony at Istana Melaka at 3.30pm tomorrow.

Abu Zahar said his priority when he took over as chief minister tomorrow would be to continue with the development programmes announced previously.

"Any programme that needs to be reviewed will be reviewed and improved, and those that are delayed will be expedited," he said.

He said the state government would also stress on efforts to curb social and youth problems, adding that he wanted to come out with a more concrete programme to deal with the issue.

Abu Zahar also pledged to continue with the open policy introduced by the late Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani who died of a stroke on May 14.

"I am prepared to accept criticisms and hold discussions to ensure a smooth administration of the government," he added. -- BERNAMA

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