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Umno-Selangor

ANWAR MEETS SELANGOR UMNO LIAISON BODY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) -- Selangor Umno leaders today supported the appointment of Datuk Abu Hassan Omar as the new Menteri Besar although several of them described it as "unusual" because it involves by-elections.

The Selangor Umno liaison body expressed its support for the appointment of the former Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister after an hour-long meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Prime Minister's Department, here, this afternoon.

The meeting was arranged by Anwar to explain the prime minister's decision and why Abu Hassan was selected.

All the members, except for Abu Hassan, who is the body's deputy chief, were present.

Several of them wanted to know how the decision came about as it would involve two by-elections.

"This is unusual but we accept the deputy prime minister's explanation," Datuk Datuk Saidin Thamby said.

Selangor Wanita Umno chief Datin Paduka Rakibah Manap said: "This is not only unusual but has never been done before."

However, no one questioned the appointment, she added.

Datuk Onn Ismail, the liaison body's secretary and the state assembly Speaker, said they accepted Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision because they had given him the mandate to decide on the new menteri besar.

Onn said the liaison body would meet tonight to discuss, among other things, the appointment of an acting menteri besar for the time being.

To enable Abu Hassan to hold the post, he will contest the Permatang state seat held by Jamaluddin Adnan, who in turn will contest the Kuala Selangor parliamentary seat vacated by Abu Hassan.

Both vacated their seats today. -- BERNAMA

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