

02 MAY 1997

Anwar-Sultan

ANWAR PRESENTS NAME OF NEW SELANGOR MB TO SULTAN

SHAH ALAM, May 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today presented a letter containing the name of the new Selangor Menteri Besar during an audience with the Sultan of Selangor at the Green Lodge, a royal residence here.

The Sultan told reporters later that he had consented to the name in the letter signed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad.

The Sultan, however, declined to identify the Menteri Besar-designate replacing Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib who resigned last April 14.

" I agree with the name in the letter and the issue over the appointment of the Menteri Besar is settled," the Sultan said.

Anwar's audience with the Sultan lasted 40 minutes.

Anwar held a news conference on the matter at the Prime Minister's Office at noon.

The Sultan told reporters that he wanted the new Menteri Besar to be clean, serve sincerely, selflessly and put the people's interests first.

" But most importantly the Menteri Besar should not lie," the Sultan said.

" I'm relieved the issue is resolved," the Sultan said.

Muhammad, who became Menteri Besar in 1986, resigned after facing two court charges in Australia for failing to declare cash equivalent to RM2.4 million when about to depart from the Brisbane airport on Dec 22 last year.

The trial for the case has been fixed for three days at the Brisbane Magistrate's Court beginning Aug 19.

Dr Mahathir, who is currently visiting Malawi in Africa, had an audience with the Sultan of Selangor at Istana Selangor in Kuala Lumpur last April 21 April on the appointment of a new Menteri Besar.

But, Dr Mahathir had then said he needed more time to decide on a suitable candidate for the Sultan's consent.

On the same day the Sultan had told reporters that the in-coming Menteri Besar should be "really clean" and that it would take time to select such a person.-- BERNAMA

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