

23 MAY 1997

Zahar-Swearing-in

DATUK ABU ZAHAR ISNIN SWORN IN AS MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER

MELAKA, May 23 (Bernama) -- State executive councillor Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin, 57, was sworn-in as the eighth Melaka Chief Minister at Istana Melaka in Ayer Keroh, here, today.

He received his letter of appointment from Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin at about 4.05pm.

Abu Zahar said after the swearing-in that his appointment was a trust that should be discharged with full responsibility.

He replaces Datuk Seri Mohamed Zin Abdul Ghani who died on May 14 following a stroke. He was also appointed state Umno liaison chairman.

Abu Zahar said he appreciated the confidence given him by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, and promised to give his best.

He also promised a clean, efficient, trustworthy and quality administration to bring the state to greater heights.

"I pledge to continue the development started by the past leaders and will do my best to realise the objective to make Melaka a developed state," he said.

He said he faced great challenge in performing his task but was confident of doing it fairly and well with the support and cooperation of all parties.

Abu Zahar is the state assemblyman for Merlimau and head of the Jasin Umno division since 1990. He beat off a challenge for the post from former deputy prime minister Tun Ghafar Baba in 1995, polling 127 votes gainst 121 by Ghafar.

He was state assembly speaker for two terms from 1986 before his appointment as state executive councillor in charge of the works and public utilities portfolio in 1994.

Abu Zahar became fully involved in politics in 1986 after retiring as principal assistant director of the state schools registration unit.

He and his wife, Datin Khalijah Mohamed Jiddi, have five daughters and a son. -- BERNAMA

MOZ JK