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Johor Umno liaison panel appoints bureau chairmen

JOHOR BARU, Mon. - The State Umno liaison committee has appointed the chairmen of the various bureaus at its meeting at Saujana, the official residence of Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, this evening.

They include International Trade and Industry Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Hishamuddin Hussein, who has been appointed information chief, while Ghani himself assumes the chairmanship of the economic bureau.

The others are Johor Baru MP Khaled Nordin (education), Kluang Umno division head Gapar Gurrohu (religious), State Works and Public Utilities committee chairman Datuk Zainalabidin Zin (consumer affairs), Muar MP Aziz Yassin (international affairs) and State Culture, Youth and Sports committee chairman Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad (social and public complaints).

The State Umno liaison committee also appointed State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Ali Hassan secretary and Deputy Primary Industries Minister Siti Zainab Abu Bakar treasurer.

Today's meeting was the first since Ghani took over the post of Johor Umno liaison committee chairman from Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin last month.

Muhyiddin and Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, who is the Johor Umno liaison committee deputy chief, were also present at the meeting.

Speaking to reporters later, Ghani said he stressed at the meeting the steps to be taken by Johor Umno in the next three years.

"They are to make Johor Umno stronger and more united, and continue with the cultural reformation today and in future as envisaged by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim," he added.

He said consolidating party solidarity was important in view of the signs of weaknesses such as money politics and in-fightings for political positions.

"Therefore, the Johor Umno liaison committee will work to safeguard unity among Malays in Johor and in Johor Umno."

Ghani also said among the agenda which could be implemented at branch, division and State levels were on cultural, arts, sports and education activities, as well as practising the teachings of the Quran.

"We also stressed on Umno pioneering a reformation on education ... We hope to start a mass movement to uplift the achievements of the Malays in education."

Ghani added that tackling social ills and issues relating to the family institution would also be high on Johor Umno's agenda.

He also announced that 50 members of Umno Youth and 10 members of Wanita Umno from each division in Johor would be required to join the Askar Wataniah.

(END)