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State's local councils told to maintain rates

SHAH ALAM, Wed. - The Selangor Government today directed all local councils to postpone all proposals to increase assessment rates until the economy recovers.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the directive also included all proposals to increase the fees for all types of services.

The decision, he said, was taken because the State Government did not want to burden the people during hard times.

Speaking after chairing the State Executive Council meeting today, he said several local councils had already made proposals to increase their assessment rates and charges for other services.

Abu Hassan also announced the appointment of the executive chairman of DZB Group of Companies Datuk Zabir Bajuri as the president of the State Government holding company Kumpulan Darul Ehsan Bhd.

Zabir, 51, who was the managing director of Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Bhd from 1987 to 1995, will take over from acting president Datuk Abdul Aziz Yusof effective Sept 1.

Abu Hassan said the appointment of Zabir was necessary as Aziz, who is also the State Finance Officer, would be too busy with his daily duties of handling problems arising from the current economic situation.

Furthermore, he said, Aziz, who was appointed acting president of KDEB in August last year, was busy preparing the State Budget.

In another development, Abu Hassan called on factory managements in the State to give time off to their employees to enable them to attend the gathering of the people with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad next Tuesday.

He said Dr Mahathir, who would be making a one-day visit to Selangor, would be addressing the people at the Malawati Stadium here at 2pm.

"Members of the public are welcome to attend the gathering to listen to the message from the Prime Minister," he said.

"I also appeal to factory managements to grant time off to their workers to attend the gathering," he added.

Abu Hassan said the visit by the Prime Minister to Selangor would start with a closed-door meeting with Barisan Nasional leaders at his official residence on Tuesday morning.

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