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Khalil-Pahang

CLOSE RAPPORT HAS BROUGHT SUCCESS TO PAHANG, SAYS KHALIL

KUANTAN, May 20 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Pahang's Menteri Besar for 13 years, said today the close rapport that he has managed to instil at all levels in the state is something very meaningful to him.

He said the close rapport among the ruler, government, state assemblymen, government servants and the private sector was created to develop Pahang through careful planning.

"I feel that I have managed to implement it to a certain degree," he told a news conference following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement of a Cabinet reshuffle which included Khalil's appointment as Information Minister.

Khalil, 61, who was also appointed Umno secretary-general, will take over as Information Minister from Datuk Mohamed Rahmat while state Religion and Education Committee chairman Datuk Adnan Yaakob will succeed him as Pahang Menteri Besar.

On his appointments, Khalil thanked the party and government leadership for their trust in him to carry out the important responsibilities in the party and government and said he would do his best not to disappoint them.

He is scheduled to be sworn in as a senator on Monday and to take his oath of office as a minister the following day.

He said that as Umno secretary-general he would continue with the good work done by his predecessor. Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, because there is continuity among the Umno members.

On his positions as chairman of the state Umno liaison body and state Barisan Nasional, he said he was told by the prime minister at a recent meeting to continue to hold the posts for the time being.

Asked about the appointment of Adnan to succeed him, he said he believed that as a senior state executive councillor Adnan knew the workings and requirements of the menteri besar's post.

He said Adnan's experience as a member of all the state-level committees and participation in the state government's decision-making process would stand him in good stead.

He believed that Adnan's posts as Bentong Umno division head and state Umno information chief would give him strength to continue to reinforce the Pahang Umno.

Adnan will be sworn in as Pahang's 14th menteri besar before Sultan Ahmad Shah at Istana Abu Bakar, Pekan, on Tuesday.

-- BERNAMA

ROS JK