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DR KOH RE-APPOINTED, SANUSI MAKES EXIT AND ADNAN SWORN IN

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 4 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon was re-appointed Pulau Pinang Chief Minister while Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid decided to make an exit, ending days of speculation as to who would lead the two northern states following Monday's general election.

In Pahang, Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob was sworn in as the 14th Menteri Besar before Sultan Ahmad Shah at Istana Abu Bakar in Pekan.

Dr Koh's re-appointment comes just two days after two Pulau Pinang assemblymen from Gerakan -- Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Lim Chien Aun (Bayan Lepas) quit the party, alleging, among other things, that the Pulau Pinang leadership "is of extreme poor quality".

Speculation was rife that the MCA, which has nine seats compared to eight held by Gerakan following the Lims' resignations, would stake a claim for the chief minister's post.

Dr Koh ended the guessing game when he announced at a news conference here today that he will be sworn in on Monday.

Dr Koh, a Gerakan vice-president, said he received his letter of appointment from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday.

He said he would be taking his oath of office on that day while state executive councillors would be sworn in a day or two later.

In an immediate reaction, Gerakan secretary-general Chia Kwang Chye today urged everyone to accept the decision of the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership to re-appoint Dr Koh.

While Dr Koh is keeping the Chief Minister's post which he has held since 1990, it is a different story for Sanusi.

The Umno veteran announced today that he will no longer be Kedah Menteri Besar as he is taking responsibility for the poor performance of the Kedah BN in the just-concluded general election.

"I respectfully announce that after looking at the results of the general election on the night of Nov 29, I have decided to decline any offer or to continue to hold the post of Kedah Menteri Besar," he said when reading a three-page statement at his private residence in Jalan Sultanah in Alor Setar.

In the election, Kedah BN won 24 of the 36 state seats and seven of the 15 parliamentary seats, a performance described as its worst.

Sanusi, however, did not give a clue as to who would succeed him.

Sanusi was appointed Menteri Besar in June 1996 to succeed Tan Sri Osman Aroff.

Adnan, 49, took over as Menteri Besar from Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob on May 25 this year following a minor Cabinet reshuffle.

On the State Executive Council line-up, Adnan said he would meet Dr Mahathir soon and the line-up could be announced by Wednesday or Thursday.

-- BERNAMA

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