

06 DEC 1999

Leaders-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR MEETS STATE AND NATIONAL BN LEADERS

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, today met component party leaders and state BN chiefs separately at his office here to discuss the formation of the Cabinet and state line-ups.

The first to meet Dr Mahathir was MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik at about 8.50am.

Other BN component party leaders who met the prime minister were MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu and Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

State chiefs who also met Dr Mahathir were Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Samad, Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamad Ali Rustam and BN chief Datuk Osu Haji Sukam.

Also seen going entering the compound of the Prime Minister's Department was Kedah State Housing and Local Government Committee Chairman Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain.

He was driven in a car bearing registration "KAQ 8" into the compound at about 4pm and left about two hours later.

But, it could not be confirmed whether Syed Razak, who won the Kubang Rotan state seat on Nov 29 general election had met Dr Mahathir or not.

Two days ago, Tan Sri Sanusi Junid had declined to be re-appointed to the post of Kedah Menteri Besar, saying that he took responsibility for the state BN's poor showing in the general election.

In the general election, the BN was again given the mandate by the people to form the government after winning 148 of 193 seats in the Dewan Rakyat.

Meanwhile, Shahidan met by reporters said he received his appointment letter as Perlis Menteri Besar from Dr Mahathir on Dec 2.

He said he would take his oath of office on Wednesday while the Exco members next week.

Asked whether the new state line-up would be a combination of old and new faces, he said: "Not sure yet...I've not sent the list to the Prime Minister."

Even though Perlis could appoint 10 Exco members, Shahidan said that only five would be appointed for the time being and another one later.

On his meeting with Dr Mahathir, he said they discussed Perlis performance in the general election.

-- BERNAMA

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