

07 DEC 1999

Tajol

DR MAHATHIR APPROVES NEW PERAK EXECUTIVE COUNCIL LINE-UP

IPOH, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- The new line-up of the Perak state executive council has been approved by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali who submitted the list to the prime minister in Putrajaya yesterday.

Tajol Rosli said he would have an audience with the Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah in Kuala Lumpur later today to seek royal consent to the council line-up for the 1999-2004 term.

He told reporters this today after officially taking over duties from outgoing menteri besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib at the state secretariat here.

The state executive councillors would be sworn in before the Sultan at Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar tomorrow, he said.

Tajol Rosli said he was prepared to enlarge the nine-member council if and when the need arose.

According to Tajol Rosli, the new executive council would "have a good mix of old and new faces."

In last week's general election, Tajol Rosli, formerly minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Member of Parliament for Gerik, contested and won the Kenering state legislature seat.

On the other hand, Ramli, who was Perak menteri besar for 17 years and the Kampung Gajah state assemblyman, moved to the Pasir Salak parliamentary constituency and won the seat in the Nov 29 polls.

When approached by reporters after today's handing-over of the menteri besar's duties, Ramli said he had no idea whether he would hold a position in the federal cabinet as this was the prime minister's prerogative.

Meanwhile in KANGAR, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim indicated that Perlis may have a smaller executive council than the six-member one previously.

Speaking to reporters after an audience with the Raja of Perlis today, he also indicated that a non-assemblyman may be appointed Speaker of the 15-member State Legislative Assembly.

The opposition PAS won three of the seats in last week's general election.

The new state executive council would be sworn in before his highness on Monday while Shahidan himself would take his oath of office at Istana Arau tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

AD RYN