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Ghani: Strong Cabinet presence an honour to Johor

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - Johor's strong representation in the Federal Cabinet is a recognition of the people's steadfast support for the Barisan Nasional in the polls.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the 11 candidates in Kuala Lumpur also marked a return to the "glory days" of Johor's role in national Government and politics.

He said he was pleasantly surprised when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad named six Ministers, three Deputy Ministers and two Parliamentary Secretaries from Johor.

"This is a clear indication that the Prime Minister is very pleased with Johor BN's clean sweep of all State and parliamentary seats in the recent general election.

"He has shown his appreciation and rewarded Johor by appointing a record 11 candidates from the State for various Federal postings in the new Cabinet," he said.

The Johor faces among the Ministers include Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs), Datuk Syed Hamid Albar (Foreign) and Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein (Youth and Sports).

Also in the line-up are Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik (Transport), Datuk Chua Jui Meng (Health) and Datuk Ong Ka Ting (Housing and Local Government).

Among the Deputy Ministers, the two from Johor are Datuk S. Subramaniam (Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs) and Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad (Human Resources).

As for the Parliamentary Secretaries, the Johor representatives are Hashim Ismail (Finance) and Dr Robia Kosai (Land and Co-operative Development).

Compared to 11 now, the previous Cabinet only had eight candidates from Johor - five Ministers and two Deputy Ministers with no Parliamentary Secretaries.

Ghani said while it was a great honour and recognition for Johor to have such a strong presence in Kuala Lumpur, it was also a heavy responsibility as the chosen candidates had to deliver or they would bring disrepute to Johor's image.

"They must be honest, sincere and committed in their service to the people. They must give their best by making meaningful contributions to fulfil the pledges and promises of the BN as contained in the election manifesto," he said.

Ghani, who is also Johor BN chairman, urged the Johor representatives to work hard to meet the high expectations of the Prime Minister and the hopes and aspirations of the people.

"Many of those chosen for positions in the Cabinet are new and young leaders. This is an excellent opportunity for them to learn the ropes and gain the experience. The Prime Minister must be thanked for this."

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