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Ghani-Exco

GHANI: JOHOR'S EXPANDED STATE EXCO WILL HAVE MANY NEW FACES

JOHOR BAHRU, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said today the enlarged state executive council will have many new faces.

He said expansion of the council's composition from eight to 10 members was in line with amendments to provisions in the state constitution.

Ghani said he would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday for a decision on the formation of the new state government following Barisan Nasional's resounding win in the just-concluded general election.

The BN made a clean sweep of all 20 parliamentary and 40 state seats in Johor.

Ghani said he would submit a combination of 10 names from BN component parties for Dr Mahathir's approval.

He said there would be new faces as some of the executive councillors did not seek re-election while some have been moved to parliamentary seats.

State Executive Councillor for Agriculture and Rural Development Datuk Sabariah Ahmad did not contest in the polls while Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad and Datuk Abdul Kadir Annuar were moved to parliamentary seats.

State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Ali Hassan also contested and won in the Tebrau parliamentary seat. He was Tiram assemblyman previously.

Latiff and Kadir are now Mersing and Pulai MPs, respectively.

Asked whether a MIC representative would be included in the exco line-up this time, Ghani said it was up to Dr Mahathir to decide.

"I will inform him that the MIC had not been represented in the state exco in the last two terms and the Indian community has given solid support to the BN in this election," said Ghani, who retained his Serom seat in the Ledang parliamentary constituency.

Datuk K.S.Balakrishnan (Pasir Gudang) and S.Krishnasamy (Tenggaroh) were the two MIC candidates fielded in this election.

Ghani said the Menteri Besar and state executive councillors would be sworn-in next week after obtaining the Johor Sultan's consent.

He said experience and expertise would be among the criteria for selection of candidates for executive councillors posts.

He also said the state government would give emphasis to entrepreneur development, industrial and service sectors.

Relevant portfolios to develop the sectors might also be created in the executive council, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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