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Isa likely to be sworn in as MB on Monday

Kamarulzaman Salleh

SEREMBAN, Tues. - Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad, who led the State Barisan Nasional to a historic clean sweep of seven parliamentary and 32 State seats in last week's general election, is expected to be sworn in as Menteri Besar on Monday.

Mohamad Isa, who was to have taken his oath before the Yang di-Pertuan Besar Tuanku Jaafar at Istana Besar Seri Menanti this morning, could not do so as he had to leave for Putrajaya to meet Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi over "some matters".

He declined to reveal what the matters pertained to when approached for comment here later in the evening, but said there was no problem with his appointment as Menteri Besar.

He said the swearing-in of the new State Government would most probably be held on Monday.

Asked whether there was any problem with the formation of the State Government and the appointment of State Exco members, Isa said there were none.

Mohamad Isa received his letter of appointment as Menteri Besar for a fifth term from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Assemblymen turned up at Istana Besar Seri Menanti this morning after being informed by the State protocol office about the swearing-in ceremony that was supposed to take place.

The swearing-in was to be followed by an investiture ceremony for the third and last batch of recipients of Tuanku Jaafar's 77th birthday awards. About 30 Assemblymen who gathered at the palace compound were then informed by State Secretary Datuk Mohd Ali Abdul Samad that the Menteri Besar "could not make it."

The Assemblymen then decided to leave and the swearing-in was called off.

The investiture proceeded with the presence of heads of government departments and ex-officio Exco members comprising the State Secretary, State legal adviser and State financial officer.

Also present were the Undang of Luak Rembau and Jelebu and the Tunku Besar Tampin. Undang Johol is away in Mecca while Undang Sungai Ujong was said to be ill.

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