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Isa retained as MB of Negri

Kamarulzaman Salleh

KUALA PILAH, Mon. - Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad, 50, who led the State Barisan Nasional to a historic clean sweep of seven parliamentary and 32 State seats in the recent general election, has been retained as the Menteri Besar for a fifth consecutive term.

Mohamad Isa, who is six-term Linggi Assemblyman, presented his letter of appointment to the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Jaafar at Istana Besar Seri Menanti here today.

Speaking to reporters after an audience with the Ruler, he said, he received the letter of appointment from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad this morning.

"The letter is to inform that the Prime Minister as BN chairman has appointed me to head the State following our success in the general election," he said.

Mohamad Isa said he submitted to Tuanku Jaafar the new State Executive Council list. He said the Exco line-up had been expanded from eight to 10 following amendments to the State constitution.

He, however, declined to release the names of the Exco line-up which would only be made known during the swearing-in ceremony to be fixed later. It was earlier reported that the swearing-in ceremony would be held at Istana Besar Seri Menanti tomorrow.

Several new faces are expected to be included in the line-up to replace two former Exco members, Datuk Napsiah Omar and Datuk Goh Siow Huat, who were elected as Kuala Pilah and Rasah Members of Parliament respectively.

Current Exco members who won their seats are Datuk Lilah Yasin (Serting); Datuk Darus Salim Bulin (Johol); Datuk Shamsul Bahari Mat (Klawang) and Datuk Dr Yeow Chai Thiam (Lukut).

Another former Exco member Datuk M. Sundram of MIC was dropped from the State election line-up while former Exco member Datuk Waad Mansor, who successfully defended his Gemencheh seat, had resigned from the post following his corruption case last year which he later won.

Names mentioned as possible Exco candidates include new Ampangan Assemblyman Zakaria Nordin, who is State Umno executive secretary; and Pilah Assemblywoman Norhayati Omar.

Others tipped to become Exco are MCA's Nilai Assemblyman Peter Lai Yit Fee and Gerakan's Senawang Assemblyman Datuk Woo Ah Lek and MIC's new Jeram Padang Assemblyman T. Rajagopalu.

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