

06/12/1999

Keep your speech short and simple, CM advises newly-elected Assemblymen

PENANG, Sun. - Keep it short and simple, please.

This is Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon's appeal to newly-elected representatives for the first sitting of the State Legislative Assembly on Dec 20.

"I hope all State Assemblymen - including those in the Opposition and the two independent members - will understand that we need to go through the Yang di-Pertua Negeri's speech and Budget 2000 and conclude everything by Dec 31."

The request not to be "long-winded", Koh added, was not to stifle the participation of the members in any way.

"The rush to meet the year-end deadline is great as the Budget, Supply and Development Bills along with other Bills would need to be tabled, while standing committees would need to be formed."

Since the assembly sitting falls during the month of Ramadan, Koh said no evening sessions would be convened.

"They (the Assemblymen) can take as long as they want in future sittings," he added.

He was speaking to reporters at the Heritage Club after presenting his appointment letter as Chief Minister to Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir at Seri Mutiara.

Koh, who declined to comment on rumours that his new Government may see the appointment of two Deputy Chief Ministers, said the State Executive Council line-up was still being discussed.

He also did not comment on whether the composition in the new State Executive Council line-up would reflect the fact that the MCA had nine compared to Gerakan's eight seats in the State Assembly.

"I do not anticipate very serious problems in the line-up as the Barisan Nasional spirit which has been recognised not only in Malaysia but the rest of the world, will prevail.

"I have so far only consulted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on the line-up and will do so with other BN component parties now that my appointment letter has already been presented to the Yang di-Pertua Negeri."

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