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Ali-CM

MOHAMED ALI SWORN IN AS MELAKA'S NINTH CHIEF MINISTER

MELAKA, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Health Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam was today sworn in as Melaka's ninth Chief Minister, succeeding Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin.

He received his letter of appointment from Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin at Istana Melaka here at 9.05am.

Mohamed Ali, 50, the Batu Berendam Umno division chief, won the Paya Rumpit state seat in the just-concluded general election.

He was formerly the Member of Parliament for Batu Berendam.

Abu Zahar, appointed Chief Minister in May 1997 to fill the vacancy created by the death of Datuk Seri Mohamed Zin Abdul Ghani, won the Jasin parliamentary seat in the election.

In his speech after taking his oath of office, Mohamed Ali thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for giving him the trust to lead the newly formed state government.

He described his appointment as a responsibility to continue with efforts to turn Melaka into a developed state by 2010.

"Despite the state's moderate size and limited revenue, we are hopeful of improving its level of development through an efficient administration and the people's solid support," he said.

Mohamed Ali also congratulated Abu Zahar and the state Barisan Nasional (BN) for winning the election with a two-thirds majority.

"This is a clear sign of the people's strong support for the government leadership and ruling party," he said.

Mohamed Ali, who is state BN deputy chairman, urged all supporters of parties that contested in the election to accept the people's verdict and set aside their political differences.

"All leaders and the rakyat must show their maturity so that the state administration can function properly...the time has come for us to devote our services to the whole community," he said.

He said all quarters should close ranks to ensure development programmes could continue to be implemented successfully.

"Now is the time to intensify efforts to bring excellence to Melaka...we happen to be entering the new millennium and let's make it the start of greater things," he said.

Mohamed Ali, who holds a degree in economic development, was a state Exco member before he was appointed Deputy Minister after winning the parliamentary seat in the 1995 general election.

He served in several government departments and agencies before contesting the Ayer Molek state seat which he won in 1986.

Following that he was made an Exco member and remained in the state administration for two terms before his move to the federal government.

Mohamed Ali is married to Datin Asmah Abdul Rahman, and they have three children.

-- BERNAMA
MOZ MYD YBY