

14/12/1999

New Executive Council members grateful for chance to serve rakyat

KUALA PILAH, Mon. - Newly-appointed Exco Zakaria Nordin (Ampangan-Umno), 42, said he was grateful to God for the appointment and would deliver his best for the benefit of the rakyat.

"Since I'm new, I will seek the advice of the Menteri Besar and senior Exco colleagues to ensure the people fully enjoy the development programmes of the State," said the State Umno executive secretary.

The other new Excocos are Norhayati Omar (Pilah-Umno), Peter Lai Yit Fee (Nilai-MCA), T. Rajagopalu (Jeram Padang-MIC) and Datuk Woo Ah Lek (Senawang-Gerakan).

First time State Assemblywoman Norhayati said once she had been notified of her portfolio she would get feedback from her officers on how best to help the public.

"I will hold meetings with as many members of BN component parties as possible, especially women, to listen to their grouses," said the 39-year-old sole woman Exco member, who is married to businessman Abdul Aziz Alias.

Norhayati, who is a committee member of the Kuala Pilah Umno division and the division's Wanita wing, said she had in fact started meeting people following her election success.

Another first-timer, Rajagopalu, a lawyer by profession, rose to public prominence through his work as legal adviser to MIC's welfare club, Kelab Amal Wanita Sri Sruthi Malaysia (Kawan).

Having started his career as teacher in 1977 and getting a law degree in London, he said: "My Exco position would give me greater scope to serve the people better."

Rajagopalu, 48, who is married to teacher V. Leelavathy, 46, and has three sons, replaces M. Sundram as the Jeram Padang BN representative and MIC State Exco member.

He said his involvement in politics which began during his student days in London, where he pioneered the formation of the MIC Club, had put him in good stead to address problems faced by the young.

Rajagopalu is the chairman of the Taman Rasah MIC branch and Rasah MIC division secretary. He also heads the Information and Education Bureau of the State MIC Liaison Committee.

Lai, 47, a two-term Nilai State Assemblyman, was sworn in as Exco replacing Datuk Goh Siow Huat who was elected as the Rasah Member of Parliament.

He said he would use his experience to serve the people and the appointment would enable him to execute policies of the State effectively.

Lai is the Economy Bureau chairman of the State MCA Liaison Committee and deputy chairman of MCA Seremban division.

Gerakan State chief Datuk Woo Ah Lek, who is second time State Assemblyman for Senawang, was given one of the two additional seats in the expanded Exco line-up.

Woo, 56, thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Mohamad Isa for giving him and his party the opportunity to serve as an Exco.

"I am sure I can contribute positively to the State Government to look after the needs of the people," said Woo, who is married to Tang Cheng Lan, 54, and has four children.

But the surprise was Gemencheh State Assemblyman Datuk Waad Mansor whose

nomination in the recent general election raised eyebrows.

Waad, who is Tampin Umno division chief, had resigned as an Exco member in May last year after he was charged on five counts of corruption at the Seremban Sessions Court.

Following a much publicised trial for three of the charges brought against Waad by the Anti-Corruption Agency, he was acquitted of the charges by the Seremban High Court last October.

ACA director-general Datuk Ahmad Zaki Husin had said following the acquittal that the agency had appealed against the decision while the two remaining charges against Waad were still pending.

The ACA had yet to come out with a statement on whether it had withdrawn the appeal and also if it had dropped the two remaining charges against Waad.

Waad was among five old Exco members retained by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad who were sworn in together with the five new faces.

(END)