

02 JUN 1999

Adnan-Exco

NEW MB ADDS ANOTHER MEMBER TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

KUANTAN, June 2 (Bernama) -- Jengka State Assemblyman Datuk Zainal Hassan is the only addition to the Pahang executive council line-up announced by newly-appointed Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob today.

Adnan told a press conference here that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to Zainal's appointment which also had the consent of the Sultan of Pahang.

Adnan was sworn in as Pahang's 14th menteri besar a week ago succeeding Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob who has been appointed Information Minister in last month's minor Cabinet reshuffle.

He said all incumbent executive councillors retained their existing portfolios while Zainal will chair the newly-created State Unity and Special Functions Committee.

Zainal will oversee the Information, Community Development, National Unity, and the Orang Asli Affairs departments as well as the State Development Office, among others, he said.

Asked for his rationale in retaining the incumbent executive council, Adnan said there was no reason to drop any of the councillors as they had all served satisfactorily so far.

On Zainal, the menteri besar said he was made executive councillor based not only on his seniority but also because Zainal constantly did his homework as evident by performance in the State Legislative Assembly.

The appointment was also a reward for Zainal's long service and loyalty to the party and leadership, Adnan said.

"We want to prove that loyalty and service to the party in the end pays off," Adnan said.

Adnan also announced the appointment of State Assemblyman for Kuala Pahang Datuk Abdullah Mohamad Derus as the assembly's Deputy Speaker.

Other members of the state executive council and their portfolios are:

- * Datuk Hasan Arifin - Deputy Menteri Besar;
- * Datuk Kan Tong Leong - Local Government;
- * Datuk Bahari Yahaya - Housing and Environment;
- * Datuk Law Kee Long - Human Resources, Health and Social Development;
- * Datuk Omar Othman - Rural Development and Rural Growth Centres;
- * Datuk Tan Aminuddin Ishak - Agriculture and Fisheries;
- * Datuk Shahiruddin Moin - Culture, Arts and Tourism; and
- * Datuk Wan Razali Wan Mahussin - Youth and Sports.

Earlier today, in a customary ceremony upon the announcement of the state executive council by a new menteri besar, Zainal and the incumbent executive councillors received their letters of appointment and took their oath of office before the Sultan at Istana Abu Bakar in Pekan. -- BERNAMA

ROS RYN