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No policy changes, says new MB

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KUANTAN, Tues. – New Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob has pledged to continue all current policies as they have been planned with a strong base.

Adnan said he and the new Executive Council would continue with the principle of collective responsibility.

"However, there may be some adjustment here and there.

"The principle of collective responsibility is the basis of a democratic government, meaning that the Menteri Besar and his exco members must be in harmony and achieve a collective agreement," he said, adding that there should be no disagreement once a decision had been made.

He said the decision made collectively also carried a collective responsibility to be borne by all exco members.

"This policy would be continued as this is the convention which we have been using in the administration of the democratic government which is chosen by the people.

"There may be some differences in opinion but they must not affect unity among the exco members and heads of departments," he said.

Adnan was speaking at his first Press conference as Menteri Besar at Wisma Seri Pahang here, after being sworn in before the Sultan of Pahang at the Istana Abu Bakar in Pekan this morning.

"This is a big responsibility for me, a duty which is not easy to discharge.

"But I will try my level best to carry out the task which has just been entrusted to me."

He said he would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow or on Thursday to discuss the composition of the new State Executive Council before presenting it to the Sultan for consent.

The outcome will be known within a week as "certain things" have to be looked into and he will require royal consent before making the announcement.

Adnan also said one or two new State committees would be set up, including one for the improvement of social development and national unity.

"I suggest that a Special Functions Committee be set up comprising various government departments, including the Information, Community Development (Kemas), National Unity, an the National Security Departments, and also representatives from the police and armed forces.

On his early plans, Adnan said he would continue implementing the projects for the people and would monitor any abandoned projects in the State.

The State Government would carry out a study on abandoned projects and take action through the State Development Office.

He said the State would continue supporting and assisting the Federal Government in spurring economic recovery.

The State Economic Action Committee would meet every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning to discuss instructions from the National Economic Action Council (NEAC).

In line with this, the State Government would make some immediate adjustments to government agencies, including Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Pahang (PKNP), the State Agricultural Development Board (LKPP), Yayasan Pahang and the Amanah Saham Pahang.

"The main reason for the adjustment is to ensure the objective of each of the government agency would be in accordance with instructions from the NEAC."

For instance, if an agency is responsible for developing agricultural activities, it would have to concentrate on this sector and nothing else.

The Menteri Besar said the agency had to adhere to its original objective which was a "very basic thing".

"The original objective cannot be achieved if we veer away from it."

He pledged Pahang would continue to be investor friendly and would carry on to send trade delegations either through missions organised by the State Government or by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The State Government would look for new sources of revenue to sustain development for the people without causing them any extra burden.

Adnan also paid tribute to the former Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob, who has been appointed the new Information Minister.

"Khalil's 13 years of dedicated service as the Menteri Besar of Pahang has enabled us to experience political stability free of any crisis."

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