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Perak MB sticks to nine Exco members

V. Anbalagan

IPOH, Tues. - Newly appointed Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the present number of nine State executive councillors will be maintained, at least for the time being.

"I may decide to expand the list to the maximum in the future after consultation," he said.

Tajol Rosli was speaking to reporters after outgoing Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib handed over duties to him in a brief ceremony at the Perak Government administration complex today.

He said this in response to questions whether the maximum of 10 executive councillors would be appointed as provided for under the State Constitution.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had approved the list and he would present it to the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, for endorsement.

The new Exco members are expected to be sworn in at Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar tomorrow afternoon. He said they were a combination of experienced and young faces.

The previous State Executive Council comprised of five assemblymen from Umno, two from the MCA and one each from the Gerakan and the MIC.

Tajol Rosli declined to name the Exco members but indicated that a Deputy Speaker would be appointed to assist the Speaker in the 52-member State Legislative Assembly.

Earlier in his speech, Tajol Rosli thanked Ramli for maintaining political stability as it allowed for the leadership to draw up policies and implement projects for the well being of the rakyat.

Asked how he would tackle political problems as Pas had made inroads into Perak by winning two parliamentary and three State seats, Tajol Rosli said he would consult Ramli. "At one time the DAP had 13 assemblymen and was led by the late P. Patto, who was proficient in Bahasa Malaysia and well-versed in State Assembly procedures. But Ramli was able to contain them effectively," he said.

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