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Seven take oath of office in Malacca

MALACCA, Wed. - State Works and Public Utilities Committee chairman Datuk Poh Ah Tiam today led seven others to be sworn in as State executive councillors before the State Yang di-Pertua Negeri, Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, at Istana Melaka today.

The others were Datuk Ibrahim Durum (Rural Development and Agriculture), Datuk Mo'min Abdul Aziz (Housing, Local Government and Environment) Datuk Ahmad Hamzah (Industries, Science and Technology);

Datuk Seah Kwi Tong (Human Resources, Health and Consumer Affairs), Datuk Hamdin Abdollah (Tourism and Culture), Datuk Long Said (Education) and Ramlah Abas (Family Development, Youth and Sports).

Also present were the other State Assemblymen, heads of departments and senior government officers.

Except for Poh, Ibrahim, Mo'min and Ahmad, the other Exco members are first-timers.

Seah was appointed to replace Datuk Wira Gan Boon Leong (MCA State chief) who had declined re-appointment as an Exco member.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam, meanwhile, heads the Religion, Land, Finance and Economic Planning committee.

At a Press conference held after the ceremony, Mohd Ali said he believed he had a good team to work with to further develop the State.

Saying that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had endorsed their appointments, Mohd Ali hoped the team could work along with him to fulfil the promises made by the Barisan Nasional-led Government to the people.

Mohd Ali said he would reveal the names of their deputies soon.

He also announced the appointment of Datuk Amid Nordin, who is Alai State Assemblyman and Kota Melaka Umno chief, as State Speaker.

Datuk Hazizah Mohd Sultan, the initial candidate for the Batu Berendam parliamentary seat who made way for former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba in the general election, would be appointed a senator to replace Ramlah, he added.

Amid would be sworn in as Speaker during the State Legislative Assembly meeting to be held at a date to be fixed later.

Meanwhile, Ramlah, also State Wanita Umno chief, expressed her gratitude to Dr Mahathir, Syed Ahmad and Mohd Ali for giving her the opportunity to lead the committee.

She said she would use her experience as a youth leader to solve the various social problems affecting the youths.

Ramlah is the second woman to be appointed an Exco member after Datuk Jenah Sharif who served during the time of the late Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Ghani.

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