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Tajol Rosli to be appointed Perak Menteri Besar

IPOH, Thurs. - Former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali has been appointed the new Perak Menteri Besar, succeeding Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

Tajol, who will assume office as the ninth Menteri Besar, will take his oath at the Istana Iskandariah in Kuala Kangsar before the Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah tomorrow.

Ramli told reporters today that he had been informed that the former Grik Member of Parliament had been named as his successor.

Tajol, 55, the son of Perak's second and sixth Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ghazali Jawi, is expected to name his Exco line-up within a week of his appointment.

Ghazali had been the second Perak Menteri Besar succeeding Abdul Wahab Toh Muda Abdul Aziz from 1957 to 1960. He was appointed again in 1974 as the sixth Menteri Besar from 1974 to 1977.

Tajol, who had been Grik MP for 21 years, had contested the Kenering State seat and defeated Azman Pandak of Pas with a 576-vote majority in the recently concluded general election.

Ramli, the longest serving Menteri Besar for 17 years, was Perak's youngest Menteri Besar after he took over from Datuk Seri Wan Mohammad Wan Teh in 1982 when the latter stepped down due to health reasons.

Recalling his earlier years, Ramli said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had played the pivotal role in his political career, from the time he was appointed as State Exco member in 1978, and subsequently as Menteri Besar and finally as MP for Pasir Salak.

"I've always followed the decision by the leadership and have never tried to lobby for any position. One thing I have learnt is that we should never go against the leadership. We must comply with whatever is required of us.

"Now that I've been given the opportunity to go to the Federal level, I will go with an open heart," he said.

Ramli said despite the sadness he felt in leaving the State, he nevertheless was satisfied with what he had done to develop Perak which had seen an upsurge in economic growth in recent years.

"Today I can proudly say that Perak is fast developing into an industrialised State," he said.

On whether he would be given a Cabinet post, Ramli said he was not aware of it but said the decision was up to the Prime Minister.

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