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Abu Hassan to move out of official MB's residence next month

SHAH ALAM, Fri. - Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar who officially resigned as Selangor Menteri Besar yesterday said he would be vacating his official residence by the end of September.

"I will have to start packing my belongings after my son's wedding on Aug 26," he told reporters at his residence in Bukit Megawati here today.

Abu Hassan's son, Mohamed Hasri, 32, a businessman, will marry Norasyikin Mohamad Johari, 18, at Bukit Megawati.

Abu Hassan, who looked more relaxed after two days of hectic meetings with well-wishers and sympathisers, said he was a free man now who could move around without having to worry about anything except his family.

"Now my main role is as husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. I can now spend more time with my wife, children, in-laws and grandchildren," he said in the presence of his wife Datin Seri Wan Noor Daud.

Since Wednesday, after tendering his resignation letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, family members including children, their spouses and grandchildren, have been giving him moral support.

He reiterated that it was time he devoted more time with his family as the better part of his life was spent on his political career.

"I have served to the best of my ability for the nation, party, the people, race and religion."

Abu Hassan said as the State Assemblyman for Permatang and Kuala Selangor Umno division chairman, he would continue to serve the party and people.

Many people, especially close friends and Government officials, visited Abu Hassan at his residence today to extend their sympathies and moral support to withstand the slander and allegations hurled at him, especially the sex scandal which was again played up in the Jawa Pos.

Several New Straits Times readers today called up to say they salute Abu Hassan for his firm stand in resigning as Menteri Besar.

One of the readers, who identified himself only as Samsuddin from Banting said: "I salute him for he is a man of principle and his word. Unlike some politicians, he did not retreat from his stand when he said he wanted to resign."

Another reader, P. Tharmalingam, 54, a sales executive from Shah Alam said it was sad that Abu Hassan's tenure as Menteri Besar had to come to an abrupt end.

"I read the reasons and I feel his sister-in-law and husband should come out and clear the air. I would not want to see an innocent man suffer silently if he is not guilty of the scandal."

Tharmalingam hoped justice would prevail so that there would be no more poison pen letters against Abu Hassan who had been conferred several foreign awards.

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