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Barisan Nasional leaders laud PM's choice

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Barisan Nasional leaders today reacted positively to the appointment of Dr Mohd Khir Toyo, 35, as Selangor's 13th Menteri Besar.

In Penang, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik commended Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's "brave move" in attempting to inject young blood into the BN and Umno leadership via Dr Mohd Khir's appointment.

Dr Mahathir's decision in appointing the little-known politician, showed the Prime Minister was "willing to take risks and make good investments in young leadership who are willing to serve."

"Gerakan welcomes and fully supports the appointment.

In Pekan, Pahang, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak urged all Selangor State Assemblymen and the people to give full support to Dr Mohd Khir.

He hoped that Dr Mohd Khir's age would not be made an issue as the most important criterion in choosing a leader is by looking at his ability, leadership qualities and the fighting spirit in him.

In Penang, another Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said: "I think the Prime Minister has taken all relevant factors into consideration before picking Mohd Khir.

"Although he may lack experience but with an experienced Executive Council and (State Umno chief) Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib's help, he should be able to carry out the task.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Umno deputy head, Datuk Salleh Tun Said described Dr Mohd Khir's appointment as a "good mix of the young and old", Salleh said it was in line with Umno's vision to mould leaders for the future.

MCA Youth chief Datuk Ong Tee Keat said the appointment showed the Federal Government was heeding the demands of the younger generation.

Meanwhile, Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia president Ahmad Azam, in a Press statement, described Dr Mohd Khir's appointment as an acknowledgement of the young leader's capabilities.

He also expressed his hope that Dr Mohd Khir would be able to administer the state according to Islamic principles.

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