

21 FEB 2000

Syed Razak-Umno

DR M OKAYED STATE UMNO OFFICE BEARERS, SAYS SYED RAZAK

ALOR SETAR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain today urged Umno members in the state not to question the appointment of the State Umno's new line-up announced last week.

He said the appointments were agreed to by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The State Umno took into account Dr Mahathir's views before making the appointments, he told a Wanita Umno gathering, here.

Syed Razak, who is also Kedah Umno liaison chief, announced on Wednesday the appointment of state executive councillor Osman Mohamed Aji as the State Umno secretary replacing Sungai Tiang assemblyman Rozai Mohamed Shafian.

He also named a newcomer Dr Abdul Ghani Shafie, an ordinary member from the Pokok Sena Umno division, as the treasurer to succeed Datuk Abdullah Hasnan Kamaruddin.

An English daily reported that the appointment of new faces to the two posts came as a shock to Umno members in the state as they had expected "old hands" to be chosen to take over from Rozai and Abdullah Hasnan.

They felt the secretary's post was important and of significance to restore Umno's image following its poor showing in the last general election.

The party lost to PAS 12 state and eight parliamentary seats in the Nov 29 general election.

Syed Razak said he had the confidence in Osman's ability to discharge his duties efficiently.

Osman, 53, a former postman, and later became a field officer with the Kulim District Information Office, is the assemblyman for Bandar Baharu. He is among the Barisan Nasional's new faces to win in the election.

He was the former private secretary to Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir before being fielded as a candidate and subsequently appointed State Culture, Arts, Tourism and Human Resources Committee chairman.

Datuk Badrudin Amiruldin was retained as information chief.

Syed Razak said Dr Mahathir would pick the State Umno deputy chairman soon. The post was previously held by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

-- BERNAMA

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