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Dr M to see King over appointment of new selangor MB

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KLANG, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah at Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow over the appointment of the new Selangor Menteri Besar.

Although it is routine for the Prime Minister to see the King every Wednesday just before the weekly Cabinet meeting, tomorrow's audience is expected to have added significance - more so since Sultan Salahuddin is also the Selangor Ruler.

This is because Selangor, one of the most developed States in the country, has been without a Menteri Besar since Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar quit last Thursday, citing health reasons.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to see the Selangor Regent in the next few days over the matter, probably by Friday when he leaves for Mozambique to attend the South African International Dialogue.

Several senior Umno leaders said they expected Dr Mahathir to announce the new appointment any time now.

The question on everybody's mind is who is going to be the 13th Menteri Besar of Selangor to replace Abu Hassan who resigned after having served for three years and two months.

Political pundits point to three favourites - Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad, State Housing, Local Government and Squatters Committee chairman Datuk Mokhtar Dahalan, and State Infrastructure, Information and Information Technology Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Sharif Jajang.

The others in contention are State Entrepreneur Development and SMIs Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar; State Rural Development, Agriculture and Fisheries Committee chairman Datuk Raja Ideris Raja Ahmad; State Assembly Deputy Speaker Datuk Salamon Selamat; Selat Klang Assemblyman Datuk Zakaria Md Deros; Selayang Baru Assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Bhari Abd. Rahman; Puchong Assemblyman Datuk Mohamad Satim Diman; Hulu Bernam Assemblyman Datuk Mohamed Idris Abu Bakar; and Batang Kali Assemblyman Datuk Zainal Abidin Sakom.

A dark horse has emerged in the form of Beranang Assemblyman Ahmad Kuris Mohd Nor.

Meanwhile Selangor State Secretary Datuk Ambrin Buang said all State administrative work was going on as scheduled.

Ambrin who is personally overseeing all the programmes and activities lined up for the 43rd National Day celebration, is also scheduled to hold a Press conference on Friday.

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