

12/08/2000

Selangor MB: 11 proposed (HL)

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KLANG, Fri. - Six Assemblymen who are not even in the current State Executive Council line-up are among 11 potential candidates being considered to take over as Selangor Menteri Besar.

The 11 names were submitted by Selangor Umno to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today following the resignation of Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar yesterday.

The list excludes former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh, both of whom were among those initially tipped to take over.

All 11 are serving State Assemblymen - a prerequisite for the Menteri Besar's position - thus ruling out the need for a by-election to enable an MP or any other outsider to become one.

Sources said those nominated were:

- \* Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad;
- \* State Housing and Local Government and Squatters Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Mokhtar Ahmad Dahalan;
- \* State Entrepreneur Development and Small- and Medium-Scale Industry Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar;
- \* State Infrastructure and Information Technology Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Sharif Jajang;
- \* State Rural Development and Agriculture and Fisheries Committee chairman Datuk Raja Ideris Raja Ahmad;
- \* Deputy State Assembly Speaker Datuk Salamon Selamat;
- \* Selat Kelang State Assemblyman Datuk Zakaria @ Zainal Md Deros;
- \* Selayang Baru State Assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Bhari Abdul Rahman;
- \* Puchong State Assemblyman Datuk Mohamad Satim Diman;
- \* Hulu Bernam State Assemblyman Datuk Mohamed Idris Abu Bakar; and,
- \* Batang Kali State Assemblyman Datuk Zainal Abidin Sakom.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that he might pick the new Menteri Besar from the names submitted by Selangor Umno or from some other names that he thought suitable.

Muhammad, who is deputy Selangor Umno liaison chairman, said a memorandum containing the names of the candidates was submitted to Dr Mahathir at 8.30am in Putrajaya.

Accompanying him were Selangor Umno liaison committee secretary Datuk Seri Onn Ismail, who is also the State Assembly Speaker, Tanjung Karang Umno division chairman Datuk Mohd Aini Taib and Senator Datuk Ghazi @ Hasbullah Ramli.

Asked who were the candidates nominated, Muhammad said they were all State Assemblymen.

He added that they also held the post of Umno division chairman.

On whether Dr Mahathir had indicated when the announcement of the new Menteri Besar would be made, Muhammad said the Prime Minister did not give any hint. "But I think the sooner the better."

Muhammad confirmed that his name was not in the list.

He said this was because he did not fall under the criteria stipulated, that is, the candidate should be a State Assemblyman.

Asked whether he would accept the post again if he was nominated by Selangor Umno, Muhammad said there was no possibility.

He added this was because he was not a State Assemblyman and also a by-election was not on the agenda.

