

20/08/2000

Warm welcome for Selangor's new MB

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers today welcomed the appointment of Dr Mohd Khir Toyo as the new Selangor Menteri Besar.

In Malacca, Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam described the appointment of the 35-year-old Sungai Panjang State Assemblyman as an indication of the trust Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on the younger generation.

As the youngest Menteri Besar in the country, Mohd Ali said Dr Mohd Khir possessed the zeal, skills and vision to drive Selangor further forward.

In Ipoh, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the appointment of Dr Mohd Khir was a farsighted choice by Dr Mahathir.

"It is unexpected but a wise selection because Dr Mahathir wants a good leadership in preparation for the 2004 general election," he said.

In Penang, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said Dr Mahathir must have good reasons for picking the youngest and newest assemblyman to be the MB.

"Although I do not know him (Dr Mohd Khir Toyo), I am confident he will steer Selangor into further development and progress."

In Langkawi, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the appointment of Dr Mohd Khir reflected Dr Mahathir's recent moves to reduce politicking within Umno and get its leaders to focus on development and important issues.

He said the fact that the new appointee was young or not from among the divisional leaders was not an issue in the present context.

Syed Razak said the age of Mohd Khir was immaterial, adding that Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was younger when he became the Pahang Menteri Besar.

In Kota Baru, Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the appointment of an unknown would stop the scramble for posts among politicians.

"From the administration point of view, at this moment, it is better that way. It is better to appoint an unheralded person to avoid the tussle (for posts)."

In Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu Mentri Besar Hadi Awang responded through his Press secretary Zahari Mohamed that there was a reason why a young Menteri Besar was chosen.

"Maybe because they want to find a clean-image candidate," Zahari quoted Abdul Hadi as saying.

(END)