

Shahidan names veterans to exco line-up

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ARAJ: Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim did not spring any surprises when he named Titi Tinggi assemblyman Loh Yoon Foo and veteran politician Abu Bakar Ismail into his six-member state exco line-up.

Despite much speculation here over the selection of new faces and upcoming leaders, Shahidan stuck to seniority and awarded both Loh and Abu Bakar with an opportunity to join his executive administration of Perlis.

The previous four executive councillors were also retained with the exception of Indera Kayangan assemblyman Datuk Khor Liang Tee who is gravely ill.

The four — Datuk Ishak Arshad, Datuk Yazid Mat, Md Isa Sabu and Mohamad Hadzi Nordin joined Loh and Abu Bakar in receiving their appointment letters from the Regent of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail in a brief swearing-in ceremony at Istana Arau.

This is the first time

Tuanku Syed Faizuddin presented the appointment letters of state executive councillors since his appointment as the Regent on Wednesday.

Loh and Abu Bakar thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Shahidan for their confidence in them. They also pledged to do their best.

Loh also expressed his gratitude to MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik for selecting him for the sole exco post accorded to the party.

He said that certain members of his MCA division had apologised to Shahidan over the recent incident where they had issued a statement urging Loh to resign as assemblyman if the latter was not appointed an exco member.

Abu Bakar, who is the Pauh assemblyman, said he was grateful for being given the chance to serve as an exco member.

Perlis adopts a system similar to Kedah where exco members are appointed on a year-to-year term.