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Khair thankful for appointment

SHAH ALAM, Fri. - Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo today thanked Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for having faith in him by appointing him the State Umno liaison committee chairman.

He replaces Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib who will be deputy with immediate effect.

Dr Mohd Khir said although they have swapped posts, nothing has changed. "Our relationship is good and we will continue working towards strengthening Umno in the State and making it Opposition-free in the next election," he said.

Dr Mohd Khir said Umno was confident about 70 per cent of the people in the state were behind Barisan Nasional.

"But to be comfortable we need about 80 to 90 per cent support and we will be working towards that," he told reporters after launching 2002 as the agriculture development year at the Intekma Resort here today. Dr Mohd Khir also said the State Government was in the midst of forming an elite squad comprising ex-servicemen to combat illegal immigrants in the State.

He said the team, which would be directly under the State Secretariat, would comprise about 30 members who would go down to the ground and identify illegal immigrant settlements.

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