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DPM-Reaction (States)

STATE LEADERS WELCOME NAJIB'S APPOINTMENT AS DPM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan

Yaakob in welcoming the appointment of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as Deputy

Prime Minister said the appointment could not have come at a more opportune time.

He said the elevation of Najib, whose homestate is Pahang, to the country's second top political post would strengthen the state Barisan

Nasional as it prepared to face the next general election.

"Pahang is confident that Datuk Seri Najib will ably help the Prime Minister in the conduct of both domestic and foreign affairs," Datuk Seri Adnan said.

"We are indeed overjoyed to see someone from Pahang being appointed the Deputy Prime Minister," he said after chairing the State Executive Council meeting in Kuantan today.

The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, today announced the appointment of Najib as Deputy Prime Minister after the Cabinet meeting in Putrajaya. Najib, 50, who is the Member of Parliament for Pekan in Pahang, retains his Defence Portfolio.

The Menteri Besar was confident that all Umno members would support the new Deputy Prime Minister and avoid any speculation that could jeopardise Umno's strength.

In JOHOR BAHRU, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said Najib's appointment as Deputy Prime Minister would further strengthen the government machinery for the wellbeing of the people.

Abdul Ghani said as one of the country's leaders with vast experience, Najib was ably suited to discharge the responsibilities of Deputy Prime Minister successfully.

"Johor Umno was confident that Datuk Seri Najib will discharge his

duties as deputy to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. He has vast experience at local and international levels."

"Johor Umno will give its solid support to Datuk Seri Abdullah and Datuk Seri Najib," he said.

Abdul Ghani said the new Deputy Prime Minister who is an Umno vice president would have strong support from the party.

In MELAKA, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said Najib's appointment was expected and it was timely.

"I believe with his vast experience in the government and the party, Najib will strengthen the leadership and help Abdullah in achieving progress and development in the interest of the people," he said.

He was confident the new Deputy Prime Minister would be able to shoulder the responsibilities that came with the job, effectively and well.

A former deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba also conveyed his congratulations.

"I welcome Najib's appointment and congratulate him and I am certain that with his wide experience he will help the Prime Minister in the conduct of the country's and party affairs," said Tun Ghafar who served as deputy to then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ghafar, the MP for Batu Berendam, is now overseas, and sent his message through his Special Officer Othman Muhamad.

In IPOH, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the State Executive Council which met today resolved to congratulate Najib and pledged its full cooperation to him.

"The choice of Najib as DPM is appropriate and I am confident he will team up well with the Prime Minister so that the country's vision for developed status will be realised," he said.

Tajol Rosli also said the elevation of the Defence Minister to Deputy Prime Minister would place the Barisan Nasional and Umno in good stead to face the general election.

In SEREMBAN, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said Najib's political and administrative experience at state and federal levels would help the Prime Minister in ensuring the country's continued development and stability.

"I am confident that Najib will be able to shoulder this

responsibility effectively. On behalf of the Negeri Sembilan Government and the Barisan Nasional, I pledge full support and cooperation to the new Deputy Prime Minister in discharging his responsibilities," he said.

He was confident that Abdullah and Najib would be able to draw the support of the majority of the people in the general election.

In PENANG, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon expressed confidence that Najib with his wide experience in government administration would be able to discharge his new duties effectively.

The Penang Government would give its solid support to Najib, Dr Koh said.

In ALOR STAR, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the Abdullah-Najib combination was the best ever for the country.

He said apart from the country achieving even greater progress, both the experienced leaders would strengthen Umno before the general election.

In SABAK BERNAM, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo said Abdullah had made an apt choice after careful consideration.

The choice of Najib is the prerogative of the Prime Minister, he said when met by reporters while accompanying the Sultan of Selangor on his tour of the Sabak Bernam district.

In KANGAR, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim expressed confidence that with the appointment of Najib as Deputy Prime Minister it would further strengthen Umno in facing the general election.

In KUCHING, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud expressed confidence that Najib's appointment would place Malaysia's political and economic stability on an even stronger footing.

"We are confident that the country will achieve even greater progress under the Prime Minister and his deputy," he said.

In KOTA KINABALU, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said the state government and Sabah BN were confident that Najib could effectively assist the Prime Minister in carrying out his duties to the people and the nation.

He said the state government and Sabah BN also pledged full support and cooperation to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the national leadership in the administration of the country, its economic management, national security and upholding Malaysia's sovereignty.

Najib's vast experience in national politics and his long years of service in Umno made him eminently qualified for the position of Deputy Prime Minister, said Musa, who is on leave abroad, in a statement issued here.

"I am confident that with this appointment, Najib will be able to more effectively contribute to Malaysia's development in general and Sabah in particular.

Musa, who is also Sabah Umno head, said the state Umno was confident that under the leadership and guidance of Abdullah assisted by Najib, Umno would grow in strength at the head of the BN and take Malaysia to greater heights of progress.

-- BERNAMA

NT MFJ AAM