

Sijangkang rep sworn in to replace Hasan Ali
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In a surprise development, Sijangkang assemblyperson Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi was today sworn in to replace Hasan Ali, the former Selangor PAS commissioner who was expelled by his party two weeks ago.

Ahmad was sworn in before Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah at 10.10am at Bukit Kayangan Palace in a ceremony attended by all Selangor exco members.

The medical doctor is appointed cabinet member in charge of Malay customs, youth and sports, while Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim will take over the Islamic affairs, infrastructure, and public amenities portfolio left vacant by Hasan.

The 47-year-old father of four obtained a medical degree from Universiti Malaya in 1991 and works as a doctor.

"I did not expect the appointment. I was just sworn in, so it's too early for me to say anything about my portfolio," Ahmad said.

It was earlier reported that Selangor PAS commissioner Dr Rani Osman was the favourite for the post.

New posts for Rani, Shafie

At a press conference later, Khalid said Ahmad was selected after considering his work performance as assistant exco member for youth and sports.

"The appointment has received the blessing from PAS, which include Rani himself," he said.

Taking over part of Hasan's former duties, Rani (right in photo) was appointed as the chairperson of microcredit for the poor and rural areas; while Bangi assemblyperson Shafie Abu Bakar will take charge of the Selangor Malay Customs and Heritage Corporation (Padat).

When asked about the reason behind his move to oversee Islamic affairs, Khalid said this is to close ranks with the state secretary and state legal adviser, both of whom are committee members of the Selangor Islamic Affairs Council (Mais).

He said uplifting Islam needs continuous efforts and prudent implementation.

"Islam flourishes because the religion treats everyone in a just and fair manner. I will be learning that essence," he said.