

T'ganu in crisis as ex-MB, state rep quit Umno
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Former Terengganu menteri besar Ahmad Said and exco member Ghazali Taib have quit Umno, plunging the state into a crisis.

The duo quit hours after Ahmad was replaced as MB.

According to sources, speculation is rife that at least two more state assemblypersons, who are also exco members, will follow suit.

"Those whose names have been rumoured to quit are Kemasik representative Rosli Othman and Bukit Besi assemblyperson Roslee Daud.

"The state Umno is currently holding an emergency meeting to resolve the crisis," a source told Malaysiakini.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Said's press secretary Rosli Zakaria confirmed the resignations of his boss and Ghazali (right), who is also Ajil assemblyperson.

Astro Awani had also reported that Ahmad Said informed the news network of the resignations in an email late Monday.

Ahmad Said, who is the Kijal assemblyperson, and Ghazali reportedly declared themselves Independent.

Reminiscent of Perak crisis

The BN Terengganu government would collapse if the duo become Pakatan Rakyat-friendly.

BN won 17 seats against Pakatan's 15 in the 13th general election.

If the duo declare themselves Pakatan-friendly, the situation in Terengganu would be reminiscent of the Perak crisis in February 2009, where the resignations of three Pakatan state reps led to the collapse of the Pakatan state government.

However, the resignation letters dated May 12 and signed by Ahmad Said and Ghazali did not state allegiances to Pakatan.

The letters sighted by Malaysiakini was addressed to Umno secretary-general Tengku Adnan Mansor and the Terengganu Speaker Mohd Zubir Embong.

Yesterday evening, Seberang Takir state assemblyperson Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman was appointed as the new menteri besar.

In announcing this, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said Ahmad Razif's appointment had received the consent of the sultan of Terengganu.

According to the Star Online report last night, all state excos were present at the swearing-in ceremony at Istana Syarqiyyah near Kuala Terengganu yesterday evening.

Ahmad Said, however, did not attend.

However, New Straits Times this morning said Ghazali was among five assemblypersons who were absent from Ahmad Razif's swearing in ceremony.

The Umno-linked daily said it is not known whether the other four, which included Mahdi Musa (Kota Putera), Rosli Othman (Kemasik), A Latiff Awang (Pengkalan Berangan) and Roslee Daud (Bukit Besi) will make the same move.

Ahmad Said was first appointed menteri besar on March 23, 2008. He was reappointed in May last year after the 13th general election.

Speculation had been rife that Ahmad Said would be replaced following an agreement with the prime minister.

Based on the agreement, Ahmad Said would remain as menteri besar for only a year after BN almost lost the state in the 13th general election last year.

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