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Abdullah: It's unconstitutional

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Ahmad receives his letter of appointment from Tengku Sri Panglima Raja Tengku Baderulzaman.

was not allowed to enter the palace, handed over the letter to Regency Advisory Council secretary Shafie Ali.

Met by reporters, Rosol said the letter reiterated the support of the 22 BN elected representatives for the re-appointment of Idris as the menteri besar and rejected Ahmad's appointment.

"Our support for Datuk Seri Idris is unanimous. There is no other person qualified to hold

the menteri besar's post," Rosol said, adding that Ahmad's appointment was invalid.

He said that if Ahmad were to proceed with taking the oath of office, he would be violating the party rules and action could be taken against him, including expulsion from the party.

Later, at a separate press conference held at the menteri besar's official residence, Seri Iman, Rosol said the 23

assemblymen (including Idris), who protested against Ahmad's appointment, had threatened to resign to enable a re-election to take place if there was no solution to the impasse.

"We have to think of the people. If, within two weeks, a state government cannot be formed and function, then there's no point for us being the people's elected representatives. The 25 of us are willing to step down if that is the best solution to the issue," he said.

Asked if their action to hand over the protest letter could create a rift with the Terengganu palace, Rosol said it did not arise as they had acted in accordance with the Federal Constitution.

"We have also received the mandate and support of the people," he said.

Idris, meanwhile, said he would seek the advice of his lawyer on the appointment of Ahmad before taking any action.

"I know the prime minister and deputy prime minister are together with me ... I have the support of the top party leadership as well as the state assemblymen and the people ... that is important," he said.

On his relationship with Ahmad, Idris said Ahmad had been a good friend for a long time. However, since Ahmad's name was touted as the potential candidate for the post of menteri besar, Ahmad had not contacted him at all.

On Saturday, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said disciplinary action could be taken against Ahmad if he were to accept the menteri besar's post as he would be going against the instruction of Abdullah, who as the BN chairman and Umno president, had issued a letter nominating Idris to the post. - Bernama

KUALA TERENGGANU: Despite the threat of expulsion from Umno, state assemblyman for Kijal Datuk Ahmad Said received a letter of appointment as the new Terengganu menteri besar from the Regency Advisory Council at a closed-door ceremony at Istana Tetamu here yesterday morning.

Ahmad, 51, received the letter of appointment from council head Tengku Sri Panglima Raja Tengku Baderulzaman, witnessed by two other council members - Tengku Sri Laksamana Raja Tengku Sulaiman Sultan Ismail and former Federal Court judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman.

The ceremony was attended by six members of the council, State Secretary Datuk Mokhtar Nong, State legal adviser Mohamad Sekeri Mamat and state police chief Datuk Ayub Yaakob.

According to Terengganu palace official Mohd Yasim Awang, the date for the swearing-in of the new menteri besar has yet to be fixed.

In an immediate response, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi defended his choice of former menteri besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh for the post, saying "the appointment of anyone other than Idris is unconstitutional and invalid".

He said this was because the majority of the assemblymen in Terengganu want Idris, the Jertih assemblyman, to be reappointed the menteri besar.

"There will be no change to this," Abdullah said after presenting the prizes to the F1 winners yesterday evening.

The ceremony in which Ahmad received his letter of appointment was held with policemen maintaining tight security outside the palace grounds. It started at 8.20am and ended about eight minutes later.

All members of the media, except for the photographer and TV cameraman from Bernama, were prevented from entering the palace. Ahmad was not reachable after the event.

Just before that, 22 Barisan Nasional state assemblymen, led by state Umno liaison committee secretary Datuk Rosol Wahid, who opposed Ahmad's appointment as the menteri besar, arrived at Istana Tetamu to hand over a letter of protest against the appointment.

Rosol, who