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PRIME NEWS

Pandikar: Change for the better

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FULFIL SLOGANS: Reelected speaker urges MPs to carry out duties diligently

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THE 13th Parliament opened yesterday with Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia being reelected as Dewan Rakyat speaker.

Beluran member of parliament Datuk Ronald Kiandee was reappointed as deputy speaker along with first-term Kuala Krau MP Datuk Ismail Mohamed Said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak proposed Pandikar's name as the speaker while Tan Sri Abdul Khaled Ibrahim (PKR-Bandar Tun Razak) proposed retired judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman for the post.

A vote was taken to choose between the two candidates and Pandikar Amin emerged winner with all Barisan Nasional's 133 members of parliament voting for him compared with the opposition's 89 votes for Kadir.

A protest by opposition MPs against the requirement to put their names on the voting paper caused a delay in the voting.

After taking his oath, Pandikar Amin, in his acceptance speech, said he would accept recent slogans such as *Ubah* (Change), *Transformasi* (Transformation), *Reformasi* (Reformation), *Ini Kali Lah* (This Time) and *Kalau Bukan Sekarang Bila Lagi* (If not now, when).

"For those who popularised these slogans, they must have their own understanding of them, but for me, these calls carry this message: change of attitude to do good.

"So, I call on all MPs to follow this while serving at Dewan Rakyat."

He called on the MPs to change, reform, transform and follow the slogans to take Parliament to a high standard, in accordance with that stated by Erskine May in the 23rd edition of his book *Parliamentary Practice*: "Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of parliamentary language.

"Parliamentary language is never more desirable than when a member is canvassing the opinions and conducts of his opponents in debate."

Pandikar Amin said patience and



Dewan Rakyat Speaker **Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia** (front row, centre) is flanked by **Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak** and opposition leader **Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim** after the opening of Parliament yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

tolerance were the true aspects of parliamentary debate and this could be appreciated when a member (of parliament), while debating, could influence the views and stand of the opposing side.

"On my side, I am determined to change, as you can all see by the robe that I am wearing today, which has transformed in terms of design, comfort and attractiveness compared with the previous robe.

"The seats of MPs, especially opposition MPs, have also been changed according to their seniority as one opposition party."

He said he hoped this seating arrangement would be followed by the creation of a shadow cabinet to identify the main debaters from the opposition.

He said he would carry out his duties fairly and called on MPs to

carry out their responsibilities diligently to ensure the continuous development of the country and people's unity.

Bernama reports that an emergency motion was filed by an opposition MP at the office of the Dewan Rakyat speaker, urging the authorities to be more aggressive in resolving the haze situation.

The motion was filed by Kulai MP Teo Nie Ching of DAP on the sidelines of the first session.

Teo expressed hope that the motion, which was filed under Standing Order 18 (2), would be allowed to be debated tomorrow.

"There's an urgent need to deal with this haze situation in a more aggressive manner as it has continued to trouble Malaysia over the years," she said later at Parliament lobby.