

Mukhriz Continues Dr Mahathir's Excellence In Politics
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ALOR SETAR, May 6 (Bernama) -- The appointment of Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir as Kedah menteri besar is seen as a move towards his political excellence, in continuing his father, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's 22-year legacy.

He took the oath of office Monday, as the 10th menteri besar before the Council of Regency chaired by Tan Sri Tunku Annuar Sultan Badlishah.

The ceremony was witnessed by his father, and mother Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

At the 13th General Election (GE13) Sunday, Mukhriz, 49, won the Air Itam state seat.

He replaced Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak after the Barisan Nasional (BN) managed to wrest back Kedah, with a simple majority, 21 of the 36 state seats.

Mukhriz became the second son of a prime minister to be appointed menteri besar after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who was at one time, Pahang menteri besar.

Mukhriz, nevertheless, was seen as not wanting to be overly eclipsed by his father. At the 12th General Election, he contested in the Jerlun parliamentary constituency, located adjoining to the Kubang Pasu parliamentary area, which was represented by his father until his retirement in 2003.

In fact, when his name was mentioned as contesting in the parliamentary area or state seat in Langkawi and Kubang Pasu, two areas linked to Dr Mahathir, he said he would concur if directed to do so but at the same time, preferred to stay in Jerlun to find his own footing.

His involvement in politics was also late, namely, only after his father retired from politics because Dr Mahathir had 'directed' that no member of his family could enter politics so long as he was still active in politics.

Despite this, Mukhriz was a leader much awaited, especially among youths after the political tsunami in 2008.

Mukhriz did not deny the 'bin Mahathir' factor actually helped a lot in his political career but hoped very much, the people would evaluate him for his own capability.

The political career of this fifth of seven siblings at the outset did not proceed well when he failed to win the post of UMNO Kubang Pasu division Youth chief in July 2004.

Nevertheless, he then succeeded in getting the highest vote for the post of UMNO Youth Exco in September. He became more prominent after winning the Jerlun parliamentary seat in 2008 and was appointed international trade and industry deputy minister by newly-minted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

In early 2011, Mukhriz was appointed Kedah UMNO Liaison Committee deputy chairman and Kedah BN deputy chairman.

His determination in helping the Kedah UMNO Liaison Committee chairman and Kedah BN

chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah was obvious when BN came back to power in the state at GE13.

Mukhriz, who is married to Datin Norzieta Zakaria, has three children, Meera Alyanna, Misha Hakeem and Melia Serena.

Mukhriz, a former student of Mara Junior Science College (MRSM) Kota Baharu, has a degree in business administration from Sophia University, Japan in 1982 and international marketing at Boston University in 1987.

Before being directly involved in politics, he was working in the corporate sector. Among his posts were M.Ocean Diving Sdn Bhd managing director, OPCOM Holdings Berhad chairman/managing director, Ajiya Bhd executive officer and Perdana Peace Global Organisation executive director.

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