

New Kedah MB to Proceed With Planned Development Projects

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ALOR SETAR, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- New Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah has pledged to proceed with the development projects planned by his predecessor Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Mahathir so long as they are beneficial for the people.

He said there was no reason for him to discontinue any beneficial development project.

"If the development project is sound, we will proceed with the implementation. We have proceeded with development projects planned by non-Barisan Nasional leadership, what more by Datuk Seri Mukhriz who is a BN assemblyman," he said.

Ahmad Bashah spoke to reporters after attending an investiture in conjunction with the 88th birthday of the Sultan of Kedah, Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, at Istana Anak Bukit here today.

Earlier, he was sworn in as the 12th menteri besar of Kedah before three members of the Kedah Council of Regency led by its chairman, Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah.

Asked about his plans, Ahmad Bashah said the most important thing was to restore solidarity between the leaders and the people after the two-week political crisis involving the post of menteri besar.

"We have to move forward to realise the aspirations of the people otherwise there will be problems at the administrative level.

"Some people may have been hurt during the period of the crisis and we have to heal the wounds," he said.

Ahmad Bashah also said that he would have ensure that Kedah remained under BN rule and continued to enjoy development for the benefit of the people.

"These two things are important. The people must see changes taking place or they will not give us their support," he said.

Ahmad Bashah said the people's confidence in UMNO and BN would not be undermined by the political crisis as was perceived by certain quarters.

The matter would be explained to the people to enable them better understand the need for the change in the state leadership, he said.

Commenting on the lineup of the state executive council, Ahmad Bashah said the appointment of state executive councillors would be made soon to ensure smooth running of the state administration.

"I have yet to decide on the lineup. I will decide on it soon," he said.

Ahmad Bashah said he would officially begin his duties as the menteri besar on Sunday.

He also said that criticism against him in the social media over his call for Mukhriz to be replaced and his appointment as the menteri besar would not discourage him from serving the people.

"I admit that it is hurtful. Do not go to such an extent to insult me," he said.

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