Bashah presents Kedah exco list to Najib

GO-AHEAD: MB declines to say if existing line-up will be retained

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will leave the selection of the new line-up of Kedah executive council (exco) members entirely to Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah.

Bashah said he met Najib in Putrajaya yesterday and had presented a list of state exco members to the latter.

He said Najib had informed him that he would leave the selection to him.

"I met the prime minister today (yesterday) after settling some matters at the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry at the federal administrative capital. I presented the list of exco members (to the prime minister).

"He has left it to me to decide on the matter," Bashah said after arriving at Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here from Subang in Selangor. Whether there will be a reshuffle (of the exco line-up), that is still at the discussion stage and so far, it has not been decided.

He refused to say if the existing line-up would be retained or changed.

There are nine state exco members in Kedah, excluding the menteri besar.

Bashah is expected to have an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah (who is also sultan of Kedah) at Istana Anak Bukit today.

A tentative programme showed that the audience with the King was for Bashah to "menjunjung kasih" (present sayings of thanks), which has fuelled speculation it may be an opportunity for him to present the list of new exco members.

On Tuesday, Bashah said he had prepared the state exco list, and he would make an announcement next week.

Bashah was sworn in as the 12th menteri besar of Kedah last Thursday after Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir resigned, citing a lack of support in the state legislative assembly.

Political analysts and observers said at least two existing exco members could likely be given the boot.

They speculated that one of them was Datuk Aminuddin Omar, the state exco member for youth, sports, arts and culture.

Universiti Utara Malaysia political analyst Associate Professor Dr Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani said of the two exco members who openly supported Mukhriz during the leadership crisis, Aminuddin had the lowest chance of retaining his post.

"Pak Tam (Aminuddin's nickname) was one of Mukhriz's personal assistants. This makes him the one to be likely shown the door," said Azizuddin.

Another "pro-Mukhriz" exco member, Datuk Suraya Yaacob, who is in charge of women's development, agriculture and agro-based industries, entrepreneur development and social welfare, may also be removed.

Observers said Suraya's possible replacement was Pedu assemblyman Kama Noriah Ibrahim, who is one of three female assemblymen from Barisan Nasional in the 36-seat Kedah assembly.

The other female representative, Datuk Norsabrina Mohd Noor, is an exco member.

Even though Norsabrina was one of three exco members who attended the last exco meeting chaired by Mukhriz on Jan 27, analysts felt she would be retained due to her young age as it could be an "asset" for Bashah's administration.