

Two in running for MB's post

Azmin's official status to be revealed today at 9am

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SHAH ALAM: Two state executive councillors from PKR are among the names touted to replace Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali if he relinquishes the coveted post following his appointment as a minister in Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's new Cabinet.

"An official statement pertaining to my status (as menteri besar) will be issued by the Selangor palace at 9am tomorrow (today)," said Azmin when met at the palace gates at about 1.45pm after a two-hour audience with Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah at Istana Bukit Kayangan here yesterday.

He said his audience with Sultan Sharafuddin went smoothly and the Ruler was satisfied with the explanation given.

"Apart from the menteri besar matter, other issues related to Selangor were also discussed," said Azmin.

The official announcement from the palace will probably be a statement signed by Sultan Sharafuddin on Azmin's departure from the state government.

Azmin, who is Bukit Antarabangsa assemblyman and Gombak MP, met Dr Mahathir on Saturday to discuss the Economic Affairs Ministry's scope as well as what was expected of him.

Sultan Sharafuddin may also announce who will be taking over the helm of Malaysia's wealthiest state which contributes 23% of the national gross domestic product (GDP).

Azmin was appointed as menteri besar in 2014.

Under the Selangor State Consti-



On the way: Azmin gesturing to reporters as he leaves Istana Bukit Kayangan after his meeting with the Selangor Sultan in Shah Alam.

tution 1959, the appointment and matters related to the menteri besar falls under the Sultan's jurisdiction.

Currently the likely menteri besar candidates are Amirudin Shari (Sungai Tua) and Prof Dr Shaharuddin Badaruddin (Seri Setia) who are both exco members.

When contacted, a PKR insider said party members were hoping Amirudin, who is one of Azmin's proteges, would be the one appointed as the new menteri besar.

"This is his third term as assemblyman and second term as exco member. He has the experience to handle the job well," he said.

Prof Dr Shaharuddin, meanwhile, comes with very impressive academic credentials.

However, the political analyst, who is also PKR vice-president, is a newbie assemblyman.

On Friday, it was reported that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong had consented to the names of proposed ministers submitted by Dr Mahathir and the swearing-in ceremony will be held today at Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur.

Potential Menteri Besar candidates to replace Datuk Seri Azmin Ali



Amirudin Shari

- > 38 years old
- > Born in Pontian, Johor
- > Wife: Masdiana Muhamad
- > Has three sons and three daughters
- > Selangor PKR political bureau member, deputy Gombak PKR chief
- > Education: Universiti Putra Malaysia (Bachelor of Social Science)
- > Three-term Sungai Tua assemblyman and two-term Selangor exco member since 2014



Dr Shaharuddin Badaruddin

- > 56 years old
- > Former vice-president, deputy vice-chancellor and professor at Universiti Selangor
- > PKR vice-president
- > Education: Universiti Malaya (PhD in Islam and Democracy), Roosevelt University, Chicago (Master of Arts in Political Science), Universiti Malaya (Bachelor in South-East Asian Studies)
- > Seri Setia assemblyman and recently appointed as Selangor exco member to head the Islamic Affairs, Education, Human Capital Development, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee