

Four councillors unable to attend

→ From Page 1

also seated in the room, were told to head to the mayor's office for a press conference.

However, mayor Datuk Mohamad Roslan Sakiman was not present and the press conference was chaired by the council's media relations officer

Zainun Zakaria instead. She said the swearing-in was called off due to a "technical error".

Zainun said four of the 23 councillors were absent.

Derek Fernandez, Latheefa Beebi Koya, Tiew Way Keng and Tiong Boon Keong were not able to attend the ceremony because they were either at work or abroad.

However, MBPJ later sent a fax stating that the cancellation had nothing to do with the absence of the councillors.

Zainun said: "We have six new faces and one vacant seat."

The six councillors, based on a circular distributed by the council, were Ahmad Akhir Pawan

Chik, Mohd Ghazali Daud, Azri Mohamad Arish, Norliana Mohamad, Lee Suet Sen and Harmony Ghani Ismail.

Zainun also refuted claims of a protest against a councillor. "We have not received any protests," she said.

Before the press conference, Anthony Thanasayan, a councillor since 2008, was seen being wheeled into the mayor's office.

Journalists received a short messaging service (SMS) which read: "Joint press conference by animal welfare non-governmental organisation and several associations representing disabled people in protest against Anthony Thanasayan being reappointed as MBPJ councillor.

"Our grouse is his interference in our canine welfare advocacy work, propagation of euthanasia and attempts of commercialising dog catching in Selangor".

The press conference was held at a hotel yesterday afternoon.

Vice-president of Warga OKU

"I think Klang council is doing a better job in providing amenities for the disabled."

Azlan Elias,
Warga OKU PJ
vice-president



Two NGOs protested against **Anthony Thanasayan's** reappointment.

PJ, Azlan Elias, who was protesting against Anthony, said: "Anthony has failed to fulfil his duty. "There are only a few places in PJ with facilities for the disabled. I think Klang council is doing a better job in providing amenities for the disabled," said Azlan.

The Warga OKU PJ was formed four months ago.

A spokesman from Malaysian Dogs Deserve Better, a canine welfare project initiated by a non-governmental organisation, said the movement was against a state government plan to build a RM5 million centralised dog pound.

"Who is Anthony to announce

this project? He is interfering in our animal-welfare efforts.

"He discredits our efforts for animal welfare," said the spokesman who was also at the press conference.

At the www.malaysiandogsdeservebetter.blogspot.com there is a petition to get rid of Anthony with 1,249 signatures.

When contacted, Anthony said the RM5 million dog pound project was announced by state executive councillor Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar in an online news portal about five months ago.

According to him, Xavier had mentioned that for details, they could speak to Anthony.

"I did not make any announcements on this matter," he said, adding that MBPJ is an award-winning city council known for championing the disabled and animals' rights.

A PJ councillor, who did not wish to be named, said: "Anthony has been performing well and he has brought many positive changes to the city.

"The public has benefited a lot by having him as a councillor."

Over at Shah Alam, the swearing-in ceremony of the councillors at the City council went smoothly as planned.