Koh won’t contest in next GE

MINISTER in the Prime Minister’s Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon will not be contesting in the 13th general election.

The Gerakan president, who was re-appointed as a Senator in the Dewan Negara yesterday, said he would only serve the Cabinet until the general election.

Koh, who broke the news at a press statement, also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has been informed of his decision.

“Coincidentally, last Sunday marked the completion of my 30 years in full time political service since 1982. Hence, I have sought the Prime Minister’s understanding that I shall serve the Cabinet only until the coming general election,” he said.

Koh said despite his decision not to contest in the next general election, he will continue to support and campaign for Barisan Nasional and his ‘comrades’.

When met at the Dewan Negara after receiving his senatorship, he thanked the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Najib for having confidence in him.

Koh said he will bring the new Rukun Tetangga Act through the Dewan Rakyat after mid-April and the Senate in early May, as well as attending to several other important commitments in the government and preparing Gerakan for the coming general election.

Along with Koh, four other senators, including three who were renewing their senatorship for the second time, took their oath yesterday before Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang.

They included Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Datuk Zainal Abidin, Minister in the Prime Minister’s department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baha-rom, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin and first-time senator Datuk Raja Ropiah Raja Abdullah.

Raja Ropiah, 63, is Selangor Wanita Umno head and national Wanita Umno exco member. Speaking to reporters later, Raja Ropiah, who holds a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree from Universiti Malaya, said she would serve the people, particularly in Selangor.

Ropiah also denied she is taking over Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil position as a senator, which officially ended yesterday.

Yesterday, Najib announced he will replace Shahrizat temporarily as the acting Women, Family and Community Development minister.