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**HEADLINE:** Hamid was a teacher and religious lecturer

**DATELINE:** Kuala Lumpur

**BODY:**

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman was a teacher and religious lecturer before joining politics 10 years ago.

Born on July 21, 1937, in Sik, Kedah, his political career began when he resigned as director-general of the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department to contest the Sik parliamentary seat.

He won with a majority of 8,329 votes against Parti Semangat 46 candidate Datuk Zainol Abidin Johari.

Abdul Hamid, 63, holds a Masters in Syariah Jurisprudence from Cairo's Al-Azhar University and obtained his doctorate in the same field from St Andrew's University in Scotland in 1976. He was made a Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department on Oct 26, 1990.

After his early education at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sik, Kedah, he taught at Sekolah Tengku Ampuan Rahimah from 1966 to 1969.

He lectured at the Faculty of Islamic Studies Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia from 1976 to 1977.

He was principal of the Islamic Teachers Training College from 1977 to 1981, director of Islamic Education from 1981 to 1984 and director-general of the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department from 1984 to 1990.

He retained the Sik parliamentary seat in the general election of 1995 and was appointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

However, he failed to retain the seat in the 1999 general election, going down to Pas' Datuk Shahnon Ahmad. Abdul Hamid obtained 13,026 votes against the 13,504 for Shahnon.

He was made a Senator on Dec 13 to enable him to rejoin the Cabinet as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department. He is married to Jamilah Mohd Said and they have one child, Wafi Nazrin.

Abdul Hamid was conferred the Darjah Datuk Setia Diraja Kedah by the Sultan of Kedah in 1987.

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