

**QUOTE**

I have made my choice (Dr. Mahathir as Deputy Premier) and can only hope and pray that the choice is a correct one and that he will be accepted and supported by the country generally.

— Prime Minister  
Hussein Onn

Razaleigh gets  
Finance post  
in new line-up

Mahathir is  
Deputy  
Premier

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after security and affairs relating to the Senate, while Tan Sri Chong, who was the Deputy Finance Minister, will now advise the Prime Minister on economic matters.

Datuk Hussein said he had, in forming the cabinet, taken into account the number of political parties in the National Front and the necessity of reflecting the multi-racial character of the country.

## Guidelines

He was also guided by two other considerations. These were:

**TO ENSURE** a more just and prosperous society which the Third Malaysia Plan to be launched this year would seek to bring about; and,

**TO ENSURE** the security and sovereignty of the country which was being threatened by Communist terrorism and subversion.

Of Dr. Mahathir, he said: "I have made my choice and can only pray and hope that the choice is a correct one and that he will be accepted and supported by the country generally."

## Promotions

Questioned about the new Deputy Prime Minister's position in Umno, he said Dr. Mahathir could be appointed the acting deputy president in the party until its next elections, scheduled to be held in 1978.

Six parliamentary secretaries were promoted to Deputy Ministers. They are:

**ENCIK ABDULLAH MAJID**, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, who is now the Deputy Labour and Manpower Minister;

**ENCIK RAIS YATIM**, parliamentary secretary to the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry, becomes the Deputy Law Minister;

**DR. GOH CHENG TEIK**, parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department, is

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By LIM THOW BOON and CHEONG MEI SUI: Kuala Lumpur, Friday

**DATUK HUSSEIN ONN** today picked Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, 50, as his deputy, ending weeks of speculation as to who would be the Number Two man in the new Cabinet.

Petronas chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was made Finance Minister.

A notable omission in the new line-up is Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Encik Ghafar Baba.

At a Press conference held at the Prime Minister's Operations Room this afternoon, Datuk Hussein also announced that he would retain the defence portfolio; Dr. Mahathir will also stay on as Education Minister.

Four Deputy Ministers were promoted to full Ministers. Three of them — Datuk Abdul Samad bin Idris, Datuk Athi Nahappan and Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan — were made Ministers without Portfolios in the Prime Minister's Department.

Haji Hassan Adli bin Haji Arshad takes over as Minister of Local Government and Federal Territory — a newly reconstituted Ministry. He was Deputy Minister of Labour and Manpower.

Datuk Samad, until now the Deputy Home Affairs Minister, will be responsible for security; Datuk Nahappan, formerly the Deputy Law Minister, will look



RAZALEIGH... Finance Minister

## The new Ministers



Datuk Samad Idris

# Changes will ensure continuity — Hussein

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the Deputy Works and Utility Minister;

**HAJI RAMLI OMAR**, parliamentary secretary of Communications, becomes Deputy Housing and Village Development Minister;

**ENCIK ALI SHARIF**, parliamentary secretary to Housing and Village Ministry, is the Deputy Communications Minister; and,

**DR. NEO YEE PAN**, parliamentary secretary to the Power, Technology and Research Ministry, is the Deputy Culture, Youth and Sports Minister.

Except in the case of Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Yaacob, all the Ministers in the last Cabinet stayed in their old jobs.

Datuk Haji Mohamed Yaacob takes over the newly-named Ministry of Public Enterprises, which apparently assumes the functions of the former

Ministry of Co-ordination of Public Corporations. Datuk Haji Mohamed was previously the Power, Technology and Research Minister.

\*The portfolio of Agriculture and Rural Development is now vacant.

Four people were appointed parliamentary secretaries. They are:

Senator Raiidan Aziz (Ministry of Public Enterprises);

National Front MP for Shah Alam Mr. Lew Sip Hon (Ministry of Primary Industries);

National Front MP for Kuala Krai Encik Zahari Awang (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); and,

Senator Dr. Ling Liong Sik (Ministry of Local Government and Federal Territory).

Among those present at the Press Conference were Information Minister Datuk Amar Haji Taib Mahmud and Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Kadir Shamsuddin.

Datuk Hussein said he had not made any drastic changes to the Cabinet and "I have retained all the Ministers in the previous Cabinet so as not to cause disruption, to ensure continuity and to benefit from their experience."

He said as modern Government became more and more complex due to the rising expectations of the people, Ministers were very hardpressed.

## Future leaders

"They therefore need additional assistance in the form of Deputy Ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

"The increase in the number of Deputy Ministers and parliamentary secretaries is also done with the intention of training, giving experience and building up a reservoir of future leaders and Ministers."

Datuk Hussein declined to reply to questions re-

lating to Encik Ghafar's absence from the Cabinet.

Asked whether there was any opposition to his choice of Dr. Mahathir as the Deputy Prime Minister, he said: "I do not expect 100 per cent approval."

Has Encik Ghafar tendered his resignation to you?

Datuk Hussein: I cannot answer that question.

Q: How many times did you change the list (line-up)?

A: I have lost count.

Q: When did you decide to pick Dr. Mahathir as your deputy?

A: Last night.

Q: Was it before or after your meeting with members of the Umno Supreme Council?

A: Before or after, what difference does it make?

Q: Will Tengku Razaleigh have to give up his various posts, including that of Petronas chairman?

A: The Finance Ministry is a very big and important Ministry...it is not desirable for the Minister to hold any other post.

Q: Who will be the new Petronas chairman?

A: We have to do things one by one...why are you in such a hurry?



Tan Sri Chong



Datuk Athi Nahappan  
The three new Ministers without Portfolio in the Prime Minister's Department.



Haji Hassan Adli  
Minister of Local Govt. and Federal Territory



DR. MAHATHIR