

**Surprise in Hussein's  
new Cabinet line-up**

# **MAHAATHIR IS No. 2**



**DATUK HUSSEIN**  
expanded Cabinet

# THE NEW TEAM

HERE is the Cabinet line-up announced by Datuk Hussein Onn:

- PRIME Minister and Defence Minister, Datuk Hussein Onn;
  - DEPUTY Premier and Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed;
  - MINISTERS without Portfolio in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Abdul Samad Idris, Datuk Athi Nahappan, Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan; Deputy Minister in the PM's Department, Dato Sri Haji Kamaruddin bin Mohamed Isa;
  - FINANCE Minister Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah; Deputy Finance Minister Mr. Richard Ho;
  - HOME Affairs Minister, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie; Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Datuk Sharif Ahmad;
  - DEPUTY Defence Minister, Encik Mokhtar Hashim;
  - LAW Minister Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Yusof; Deputy Law Minister, Encik Rais Yatim;
  - TRADE and Industry Minister, Datuk Hamzah Abu Samah; Deputy Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat;
  - LABOUR and Manpower Minister, Datuk Lee San Choon; Deputy Labour and Manpower Minister, Encik Abdullah Majid;
  - AGRICULTURE Minister, (vacant); Deputy Agriculture Minister, Datuk Mustapha Jabar;
  - PRIMARY Industries Minister, Datuk Musa Hitam; Deputy Minister, Mr. Paul Leong Khee Seong;
  - PUBLIC Enterprises Minister Datuk Haji Mohamed bin Yaacob;
  - LAND and Regional Development Minister Datuk Mohammad Asri Haji Muda; Deputy Minister, Dr. Sulaiman Daud;
  - SCIENCE, Technology and Environment Minister, Tan Sri Ong Kee Hui; Deputy Minister, Datuk Haji Abdullah Ahmad;
  - DEPUTY Education Minister, Mr. Chan Slang Sun;
  - HEALTH Minister Tan Sri Lee Siok Yew; Deputy Health Minister, Datuk Haji Abu Bakar bin Omar;
  - WELFARE Service Minister, Hajjah Aishah Ghani;
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By MAUREEN HOOD and S. THANASEGARAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has been named the new Deputy Prime Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn at a Press conference here this afternoon. Dr. Mahathir will retain his Education portfolio.

The whole room gasped as the announcement, which obviously came as a surprise to many, was made.

Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah is the new Minister of Finance, whose deputy is Mr. Richard Ho, from the Ministry of Works and Transport.



DR. MAHATHIR . . . the new Deputy Premier

**WHAT THE STAR SAYS**

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The portfolio of Agriculture and Rural Development, formerly held by Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba, is vacant. A "suitable man" will be found soon to fill the position, Datuk Hussein said.

The reshuffle is not "drastic" with three promotions of Deputy Ministers to full Ministers without portfolio, in the Prime Minister's Department.

They are Datuk Abdul Samad Idris, former Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Datuk Athi Nahappan, former Deputy Minister of Law, and Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan, formerly Deputy Minister of Finance.

## CHANGES

Except for some new faces and changes at the Deputy Ministerial level and appointment of new Parliamentary secretaries, the Cabinet line-up remains essentially unchanged.

Datuk Hussein Onn said that the decision to choose Dr. Mahathir was arrived at only last night after several changes.

"I revised the list many times. How many times I have lost count," he said in reply to a question.

"I have made my choice and can only



ENCIK GHAFAR not mentioned

pray and hope that the choice is a correct one and that he will be accepted and supported by the country generally," Datuk Hussein said.

However, he said he could not expect 100 per cent approval from all the parties in the National Front.

## THOUGHT

When asked if Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba has resigned, Datuk Hussein said he could not tell.

He said that he has given much serious thought and consideration to this appointment.

"Forming a Cabinet has never been easy for any Prime Minister, especially to a first timer like me.

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# NO DRASTIC CHANGES, SAYS HUSSEIN

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"It is made more difficult in this case on account of the number of political parties in the Barisan Nasional Government and also the necessity to give a proper balance so as to reflect the multi-racial character of our nation."

Datuk Hussein added that in forming the new Cabinet, in addition to these factors, he was guided by the need of ensuring a more just and prosperous society which the Third Malaysia Plan would seek to bring about.

He said he also considered the security and sovereignty of Malaysia which is "threatened today by Communist terrorism and subversion."

In the face of these vital challenges, Datuk Hussein pointed out he had decided not to make "any drastic changes" and the Cabinet Ministers retain most of the portfolios, except for the few changes.

He said he wished to have the Ministers to retain the previous Cabinet posts so as to ensure continuity and to benefit from their experience.

## EXPECTATIONS

"As modern Government become more and

more complex due to the rising expectations of the people, Ministers are hard pressed, with regard to their ministerial duties and responsibilities.

"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.

There has been a change of names for certain Ministries but their functions are unchanged.

Datuk Hussein said that Tengku Razaleigh will be resigning from his post as chairman of Petronas. "The Finance Ministry is a big Ministry. It is not advisable to hold other posts," he said.

The Press conference scheduled to start at 3pm was delayed for about 20 minutes.

Also present at the Press Conference were Datuk Taib Mahmud Minister of Information, and the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Kadir Shamsuddin.

Earlier, the Yang Di-pertuan Agung received in audience Datuk Hussein.



TENGGU RAZALEIGH . . . new man in Cabinet

## Who's who

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● **CULTURE**, Youth and Sports Minister, Datuk Ali Haji Ahmad; Deputy, Dr. Neo Yee Pan;

● **INFORMATION** Minister, Datuk Amar Haji Taib Mahmud; Deputy, Datuk Wan Kadir Ismail;

● **LOCAL** Government and Federal Territory Minister, Haji Hassan Adli;

● **HOUSING** and Village Development Minister, Mr. Michael Chen; Deputy, Haji Ramli Omar;

● **COMMUNICATIONS** Minister, Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam, Deputy, Encik Ali Shariff;

● **WORKS** and Utility Minister Datuk Haji Abdul Ghani Gilong; Deputy, Dr. Goh Cheng Teik;

● **FOREIGN** Affairs Minister, Tengku Datuk Ahmad Rithauddeen.

● **PARLIAMENTARY** secretaries: Encik Mustaffa Ali (Trade and Industry); Mr. S. Subramaniam (Labour and Manpower); Mr. Lew Sip Hon (Primary Industries); Senator Rafidah Aziz (Public Enterprises); Mr. Law Heing Ding (Science, Technology and Environment); Dr. Ling Liong Sik (Local Government and Federal Territory) and Encik Zahari Awang (Foreign Affairs).