

MAHATHIR-APPOINTMENT

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 17³⁾ (BERNAMA) ^(P) — THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF INDONESIA ARE HAPPY WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AS THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, THE INDONESIAN MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, ENCIK ALAM SHAH RATU PERWIRANEGARA, SAID TODAY. HE SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S APPOINTMENT WAS FITTING BECAUSE OF HIS INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR'S POSITION IN THE WORLD OF POLITICS AND AS A NATIONAL LEADER WAS NO LONGER QUESTIONED, HE TOLD REPORTERS ON HIS ARRIVAL AT THE KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR A THREE-DAY VISIT TO MALAYSIA.

HIS VISIT IS AT THE INVITATION OF THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT TO WITNESS THE INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL QURAN READING COMPETITION TO BE OPENED BY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG TOMORROW.

ENCIK ALAM SHAH WILL CALL ON DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AT HIS OFFICE AT THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY TOMORROW TO CONVEY PRESIDENT THE FIRST MINISTER OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO CALL ON DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MAHATHIR SINCE HE BECAME PRIME MINISTER.

—BERNAMA MORE 1831/AN

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS WELL-KNOWN IN THE REGION FOR HIS FIRMNESS AND CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS IN VARIOUS FIELDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIA AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, HE SAID.

ON TUN HUSSEIN ONN'S RETIREMENT, ENCIK ALAM SHAH SAID THAT INDONESIA AND THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD LOST A LEADER WHO HAD DONE MUCH FOR THE ASSOCIATION.

HOWEVER HE WAS BEING REPLACED BY ANOTHER LEADER IN THE PERSON OF DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, ENCIK ALAM SHAH ADDED.

ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE RELIGIOUS FIELD, HE SAID INDONESIA WAS EVER PREPARED TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE NEEDED BY MALAYSIA.

ENCIK ALAM SHAH WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK MOHAMAD NASIR, DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE QURAN READING ORGANISING COMMITTEE TAN SRI SYED NASIR ISMAIL, AND THE CHARGE D' AFFAIRES OF THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY HERE, HAJI IBRAHIM YASSIN.

—BERNAMA 1836/AN