

NO39 (F)
CABINET-REVIVE
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 18³⁾ (BERNAMA)—THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, REVIVED IN THE NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED TODAY, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND COORDINATING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.

PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID THE MINISTRY WOULD TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, AND HAD ALSO BEEN ASSIGNED TO LOOK OUT FOR SHORTCOMINGS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY.

ITS OTHER FUNCTIONS INCLUDE THE RESETTLEMENT OF FLOOD VICTIMS, MAINTAINING RURAL ROADS AND RESTRUCTURING OF TRADITIONAL KAMPUNG, TAKING CHARGE OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE SETTING UP SMALL INDUSTRIES IN THE RURAL AREAS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL CORPORATION (PERNAS) AND THE MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION (MISC) WOULD COME UNDER THE MINISTRY.

HE SAID THE MINISTRY WAS REVIVED IN VIEW OF THE VAST DISPARITY BETWEEN THE URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.—BERNAMA MORE 1430/HM

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ALTHOUGH I AM INVOLVED AND RESPONSIBLE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THERE ARE DAY-TO-DAY MATTERS THAT NEED THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF A MINISTER,+ HE SAID.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM WILL BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE MINISTER CONCERNED, ENCIK SANUSI JUNID.

ENCIK SANUSI, FORMERLY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, WAS THANKFUL TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR PLACING CONFIDENCE IN HIM TO SHOULDER THE NEW AND HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY.

“I WILL TRY MY BEST NOT TO BETRAY THE CONFIDENCE AND WILL CARRY OUT THE DUTIES TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY,+ HE SAID TO BERNAMA.

THE NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY WAS CREATED IN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN'S CABINET AND ITS MINISTER THEN WAS THE LATE TUN ABDUL RAZAK WHO AT THE SAME TIME WAS THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

IN MAY 1969 THE MINISTRY WAS TAKEN OVER BY ENCIK ABDUL GHAFAR BABA UNTIL IT WAS RENAMED THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY FOLLOWING A CABINET RESHUFFLE UNDER TUN RAZAK IN SEPTEMBER 1979.—BERNAMA 1432/HM

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