

### MAHATHIR 3 Kuala Lumpur

The new deputy ministers are Haji Abdul Rahim Bakar (Energy, Posts and Telecommunications), Megat Junid Megat Ayob (Primary Industries), Prof. Mohamed Yusof Nor' (Prime Minister's Department), and Haji Yahaya Lampong (National and Rural Development). Haji Abdul Rahim is formerly Mara Chairman, Megat Junid the Prime Minister's political secretary, Prof. Mohamad Yusof the Vice-Chancellor of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia while Haji Yahaya is the Member of Parliament for Usukan in Sabah. He is the parliamentary Secretary of the Land and Regional Development Ministry. Encik Zainal Abidin Zin, is appointed Deputy Works Minister. His place in the ministry is taken by Haji Dasuki Ahmad, the Member of Parliament for Tumpat.

Those involved in portfolio transfers are Tengku Ahmad Rhauddeen (from Trade and Industry to Foreign Affairs), Datuk Seri Mohamed Adib Adam (from Information to Land and Regional Development), Datuk Rais Yatim (from Land and Regional Development; to Information), Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud (from Education to Culture, Youth and Sports), and Encik Anwar Ibrahim (from Culture, Youth and Sports to Agriculture).

The deputy ministers involved are Encik Radzi Sheikh Ahmad (from PM's Department to Home Affairs), Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong (from Education to Finance), Hajah Rahmah Osman (from Information to Transport), Haji Bujang Ulis (from Primary Industries to Education), Encik Mohamad Kassim Ahmad (from Home Affairs to Information), and Datin Paduka Rosemary Chong (from Culture, Youth and Sports to Education). --more

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Encik Mustapha Mohamad, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry, swap places with Haji Awang Jabar, the Parliamentary Secretary of the PM's Department.

The Prime Minister, however, did not fill the post of Deputy Culture, Youth and Sports Minister vacated by Datin Paduka Rosemary Chong.

The new line-up would take effect from Tuesday when the new ministers took their oath before the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong gave his concurrence to the new line-up in an audience given by his Majesty on Thursday in Kuala Terengganu where they attended the meeting of the Conference of Rulers.

He explained that the dropping of the ministers and deputy ministers from the cabinet was in deference to their own wishes as they had submitted letters resigning from their post.

Following the resignations, he had to make a number of changes in the cabinet by filling vacant posts, bringing in some new faces, and upgrading deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

He stressed that the exercise was not based on the decisions of the Umno General Assembly recently but on the needs of the party and government.

The reshuffle involved only Umno ministers as there were no resignations by ministers of any other component party of the Barisan Nasional.

Asked the reasons for moving Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to another ministry from the Finance Ministry which he has headed for eight years, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said all ministers should be moved around to enable them to broaden their experience.

He refuted allegations that the transfer constituted a punishment to Tengku Razaleigh for challenging Datuk Musa Hitam for the Umno deputy presidency at the party elections recently. --more

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+If punitive action is to be the purpose, then he need not be appointed at all as he was defeated in a contest for a party post.

+There are some people who did not win any party post. Are they to be regarded as being punished?+

He also emphasized that no minister could be considered as being more senior than other ministers in the cabinet solely by virtue of holding an important portfolio.

For example, someone appointed the Education Minister need not necessarily be a senior person or considered as being given a ticket to the Deputy Prime Ministership.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that although Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah had been Finance Minister since joining the cabinet, he started from the bottom and there were other ministers who were more senior than his.

Asked whether Encik Daim Zainuddin, who is the Member of Parliament for Kuala Muda, is able to discharge the functions of a Finance Minister as he is a political newcomer, he said that although he might be new as a minister, Encik Daim had been in business a long time and had proven his capabilities. --more

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He said Encik Daim's appointment would not lead to any conflict of interest because he would be asked to relinquish all his business interests.

Encik Daim would be given sufficient time to fulfil this requirement which was also applicable to all cabinet ministers.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that if the property owned constituted personal property, ministers would be allowed to set up a family company and transfer the property to the company. They would then not be allowed to have any further ties with the company or to be actively involved in developing the company.

If they wished to buy shares, they would have to make a declaration but could not be involved in the management of the family company.

Prime Minister stressed that Encik Daim's appointment was not setting a trend to appoint a businessman as the Finance Minister in the future.

It so happened that Encik Daim was a businessman and he was chosen for his suitability.

Tengku Razaleigh was similarly a businessman before he joined the cabinet.

Asked why the Welfare Services portfolio is given to a man and not a Wanita Umno candidate as was the practice, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir explained that the portfolio need not always be held by a woman as it had at one time in the past been held by a man.

On the deputy minister posts vacated by two MCA candidates, he said the posts would be filled at a suitable time.

A, he said, wished to resolve its problem first. --more

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He was confident the MCA party crisis would be overcome although this might take time.

He said the new cabinet line-up was not solely an individual decision as he had taken into consideration the views of certain people.

do not regard a cabinet reshuffle as a game and every change made is purely out of necessity, + he added.

t at the press conference which lasted nearly two hrs were Datuk Musa Hitam and the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamad. --Bernama ES