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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 4 (BERNAMA) -- THE HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO WILL BE HELD BY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD FOR THE TIME BEING UNTIL IT CAN BE ASSIGNED TO SOMEONE ELSE, INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK RAIS YATIM SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THE DECISION AT THE WEEKLY CABINET MEETING HERE.

DATUK RAIS TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE MATTER HAD ALSO BEEN GAZETTED.

HE SAID THE FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES OF THE MINISTRY WOULD CONTINUE AS USUAL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

THE PORTFOLIO WAS HELD BY MCA ACTING PRESIDENT DATUK DR NEO YEE PAN UNTIL HIS SERVICE WAS TERMINATED BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON AUG 16.

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THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID THE TERMINATION OF DATUK DR NEO'S SERVICE WAS TO FACILITATE EFFORTS TO END THE MCA CRISIS.

THE HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRY HAS TWO DEPUTY MINISTERS -- PUAN NAPSIAH OMAR AND DATUK S. SUBRAMANIAM.

DATUK RAIS SAID THE CABINET ALSO AGREED TO SEVERAL NEW PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE INFORMATION MINISTRY REGARDING RADIO AND TV LICENCES.

ONE OF THESE CALLED FOR THE ABOLITION OF RADIO LICENCES IN RESIDENTIAL PREMISES AND THE RETENTION OF CAR RADIO LICENCES.

THE CABINET ALSO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUGGESTIONS BY THE MINISTRY TO OVERHAUL THE SYSTEM OF COLLECTING RADIO AND TV LICENCE FEES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA

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