

Concentrate on your work, PM tells appointees

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Ministers, their deputies and Parliamentary Secretaries who will begin work tomorrow were told to concentrate on their job and discharge their tasks efficiently.

They should also carry out their duties with a deep sense of trustworthiness, have all their assets declared, uphold their oath of secrecy and be able to stand firmly together on any decision made by the Cabinet.

These instructions were given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he announced his Cabinet today. The announcement was carried live over RTM at 5.30pm. Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid was also present at the Press conference.

Dr Mahathir said: "As a responsible Government, we will try as best as we can to implement our policies and programmes, which are designed to bene-

fit all Malaysians. The Government will try harder to bring more development for the people."

Asked whether he had any specific advice to all the appointees, Dr Mahathir said they must concentrate fully on their job.

Of great significance, these appointees should not deviate from their tasks and not be involved in any malpractices, he said.

Asked what would constitute malpractices, Dr Mahathir said these included acts such as leaking state secrets, particularly by those who may try to widen their influence.

Decisions made collectively by the Cabinet should be adhered to firmly, Dr Mahathir said, adding that "once a decision is made, all Ministers must stand by it. We must accept the final decision once it's made".

As for the declaration of all forms of assets, he said this must be done by all appointees, including those who were already in the Cabinet. Assets to be de-

clared include jewellery.

A considerable period of time would be given to the appointees for the asset declaration exercise to be completed as they would have to ascertain their moveable and fixed assets, he said.

Asked who would be monitoring the malpractices, Dr Mahathir said the normal law enforcement departments, including the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), would be responsible for this.

The new Cabinet will meet for the first time on Wednesday.

Asked how the staffing of the new ministries would be done, the Prime Minister said Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji would finalise the arrangements, which would include the redeployment of some employees to new departments and sections.

Asked why an International Trade and Industry Ministry was created, Dr Mahathir said the original Ministry had grown very big with much more to do.