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MAHATHIR - SECRETARY



FORT KLANG, JAN 23 / (BERNAMA) -- A SUCCESSOR TO THE OUTGOING CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT, TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN MOHAMED, HAS BEEN CHOSEN, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HIS NAME WOULD ONLY BE ANNOUNCED WHEN THE TIME COMES, HE SAID WHEN QUERIED BY REPORTERS AFTER GOING ON A THREE-HOUR CRUISE ON BOARD THE +TUNASSAMUDERA+ ROYAL YACHT AT THE NORTH KLANG STRAITS HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER DECLINED TO GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CHIEF SECRETARY.

HE SMILED WHEN ASKED WHETHER 'PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR-GENERAL' TAN SRI ALWIJANTAN WOULD BE THE NEW MAN FOR THE POST.

A FRONT-PAGE NEWSPAPER REPORT TODAY SPECULATED THAT THE POST WAS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN OVER BY TAN SRI ALWI. TRADITIONALLY, THE PSD DIRECTOR-GENERAL IS APPOINTED CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT. --

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THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED HAPPY TO HAVE EXPERIENCED THE CRUISE. HE EVEN CHANGED HIS BUSH-JACKET FOR A LONG-SLEEVED BLUE T-SHIRT AND WHITE TRACK BOTTOM ON BOARD, JUST LIKE THE ATTIRE WORN BY 24 YOUTHS UNDERGOING THE 10-DAY TRAINING ON THE YACHT.

+VERY NICE,+ HE TOLD WAITING REPORTERS AT WHARF 21, WHERE HE EARLIER LAUNCHED THE SCHEME FOR YOUTHS TO UNDERGO TRAINING ON THE YACHT.

ALSO ON BOARD WERE EDUCATION MINISTER ANWARIBRAHIM, ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY CHIEF TAN SRI ABDUL WAHAB NAWI AND THE BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE LORD IVON ANTHONY MOORE BRABAZON, WHO ARRIVED LAST NIGHT FOR A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

THE 44-METRE YACHT, COSTING \$18 MILLION, WAS BUILT BY BROOK YACHTS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OF LOWESOFT SUFFOLK UNITED KINGDOM. THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG SULTAN AZLAN SHAH AND QUEEN ELIZABETH II GRACED THE HANDING-OVER CEREMONY OF THE YACHT AT THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY BASE IN LUMUT LAST OCTOBER.

THE TRAINING SCHEME ON BOARD THE YACHT WAS TO ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IN NAVIGATION WHILE INSTILLING SELF-DISCIPLINE AND MOTIVATION IN FACING CHALLENGES. -- BERNAMA
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