

Dr Mahathir dissolves two Ministries, Five new faces in creates new one Cabinet

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today announced the new Cabinet line-up that saw the appointment of five new Ministers, the dissolution of two Ministries and the creation of a new one.

Dr Mahathir also announced the introduction of a code of ethics for Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. In fact, the code of ethics would apply to all the political wing in Government, the Prime Minister said.

Speaking at a packed Press conference at the Prime Minister's Department here, Dr Mahathir said he also retains the Home Ministry while Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim continues as Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

The new ministers will be sworn in on Monday, he said.

The new ministry is called the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development. It replaces the Public Enterprises Ministry. Also dissolved is the Law Ministry.

Dr Mahathir said the establishment of the new ministry was in line with the resolution made at the third Bumiputera Economic Congress in 1992.

He said it was important to produce efficient Bumiputera entrepreneurs as this would enhance efforts to ensure economic balance in a multi-racial society.

The post of Minister of Entrepreneur Development goes to Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, the former Deputy Finance Minister and the MP for Jeli, Kelantan.

of executive councillors in Kedah, Pahang, Negri Sembilan and Perak.

The formation of the new Cabinet came eight days after Dr Mahathir led the Barisan Nasional to a thumping victory in the country's ninth general election. The announcement was carried live over RTM and TV3.

The five new ministers appointed are Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (Minister of Youth and Sports), Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman (Minister in the Prime Minister's Department), Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail (Minister of National Unity and Community Development), Chua Jui Meng (Minister of Health) and Mustapa.

The Prime Minister said he had left one of the posts of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department meant for Sabah vacant as he was still looking at possible candidates.

Asked to comment on his new Cabinet, the Prime Minister said: "I think it's a

- THE FULL LIST: P2
- THE NEW CABINET
IN PICTURES: P3
- DEPUTY MINISTERS
— IN PICTURES: P6
- THUMBNAIL
SKETCHES OF
NEW FACES: P8

very good Cabinet. It consists of experienced people and some new members.

"Some of the new members are elevated from their previous positions as deputy ministers. Therefore, in actual fact, they have experience. We don't believe in just dropping ministers and have them replaced..."

Following the dissolution of the Law Ministry, Dr Mahathir said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, will look after matters pertaining to law as in the old portfolio.

Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, the former Law Minister, will now move to the Defence Ministry. Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, the former Defence Minister, is now the Minister of Education, taking over from Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

Dr Sulaiman is now the new Agriculture Minister.

The announcement of the new Cabinet today coincided with the announcement

Asked whether he has any advice to his Cabinet colleagues, Dr Mahathir said: "Learn your job..know your job and make sure that all the things you are supposed to do are done and carried out."

When asked to comment about the retention of a number of ministers in the new Cabinet, the Prime Minister said these leaders must "obviously be doing quite well."

He said: "I have no reason to remove them. I like continuity as you know...it takes time for people to learn their jobs. Just changing people to some other ministry just for the sake of changing would not achieve

anything."

Asked to comment on Najib's move from Defence to Education, the Prime Minister said he was appointed on the strength of his wide experience.

Furthermore, Dr Mahathir said, the Education Ministry is to be restructured with the creation of at least six new departments, each with its respective directors.

With the restructuring, there would be greater focus on areas such as science and technology and technical training, he said.

Asked to comment on the appointment of senior Umno vice-president, Mu-

hyiddin, to the post of Youth and Sports Ministry, especially whether the move reflected the ministry's new importance, Dr Mahathir said the ministry has always been important.

The Prime Minister said it had now become more important than before because there are many problems facing the country's youths. He added that there must be proper training of youths, since some of them appeared not to be responsible.

He said there were also instances of university students who left campus to participate blindly in poli-

tics while some are just laz- ing away, giving rise to the *lepak* problem.

Muhyiddin is involved in a direct swap with Ghani Othman, who is now Johor Menteri Besar.

Asked whether there was any political significance in having two ministers from Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said there was none. The Prime Minister said Mustapha was "a very capable person to head the new ministry," and this was the reason for his inclusion.

The other minister from Kelantan is Datuk Annuar Musa, the Minister of Rural Development.

Asked whether the reappointment of Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as Minister of International Trade and Industry meant she had been cleared of any wrongdoing, Dr Mahathir said:

"Until she is proven wrong, we don't assume that she is wrong."

Asked about the investigation into her alleged involvement in the allocation of Leader Universal shares to her son-in-law by her ministry, Dr Mahathir added that it had not been completed yet.

"But as far as I am concerned whatever decision is taken I will act on it."

Asked on the rationale for

selecting his Cabinet, Dr Mahathir said the members were chosen to reflect the multi-racial balance in the country and representation from the various States.

The personalities' individual capabilities was another factor in their selection, Dr Mahathir said.

Asked to comment on Syed Hamid's appointment, Dr Mahathir said the MP for Kota Tinggi had gathered sufficient experience during his tenure at previous ministries.

Dr Mahathir also intro-

PLEASE TURN TO
PAGE 2, COL 4

Deputy Ministers include new faces and those switching jobs

□ FROM PAGE ONE

duced several new faces as junior ministers.

They are acting Umno Youth head Datuk Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz (MP for Chenderoh who is now Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department); former Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad (MP for Tasek Gelugor and now made Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department); Finance Ministry's Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar (MP for Padang Terap who is now Deputy Minister of Finance); Siti Zainab Abu Bakar (the MP for Tebrau and now Deputy Minister of Primary Industries); ex-Malacca exco member Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam (MP for Batu Berendam who is now Deputy Minister of transport); Idris Jusoh (MP for Besut and now Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur Development); ex-Terengganu exco member Datuk Abu Bakar Daud (MP for Kuala Terengganu and now Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment).

Former Deputy Agriculture Minister, Datuk S. Subramaniam, who is also deputy MIC president, also made a re-entry, this time as Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry.

Several deputy ministers were moved to new ministries. They include Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (from Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs to Human Resources); Datuk Mohd Tajol Rosli Mohd Ghazali (from Energy, Telecommunications and Posts to Housing and Local Government); Datuk Khalid Yunus (from Land and Co-operative Development to Education); Kerk Choo Ting (from Works to International

Trade and Industry); Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan (from Foreign to Defence) and Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman (Public Enterprise to Health).

The appointment of parliamentary secretaries also saw some new faces. They include Umno Youth Exco member and MP for Tenggara, Hishamuddin Tun Hussein (International Trade and Industry Ministry); Padang Besar MP Azmi Khalid (Prime Minister's Department); MP for Kuala Langat Dr Shafie Salleh (Finance Ministry); MP for Langkawi Datuk Abu Bakar Taib (Agriculture Ministry); MCA MP for Bandar Tun Razak Tan Chai Ho (Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry); Sabah Umno leader Shafie Afdal (Information Ministry) and MP for Lembah Pantai Shahriyat Abdul Jalil (Youth and Sports Ministry).

Excluded from the lineup was Othman Abdul, who won the parliamentary seat of Pendang in Kedah. He was the parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department.

The new Cabinet has 25 ministers, apart from the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. There are 30 deputy ministers and 15 parliamentary secretaries.

Fifteen of the ministers are from Umno, four from MCA, two from Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) and one each from MIC, Gerakan, Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS).

Of the deputy ministers, 17 are from Umno, six from MCA, two each from MIC and Gerakan and one each from SUPP, Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and PBB.

For the parliamentary

secretary posts, nine represent Umno, two each from MCA and MIC, one each from SUPP and PBB.

Asked whether he was happy with the appointment of State excos made in the last few days, Dr Mahathir said: "Well, they have submitted their lists and most of them are quite happy...and I should be happy because they followed my advice."

Asked on the rationale of moving three Federal Ministers to State seats and not appointing them to head State Governments, Dr Mahathir said it was a form of strategy.

"We have certain strategies but I will not go into details now," he said.

The three were former Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, former Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor and former Minister of National Unity and Social Development Datuk Napsiah Omar.

Yusof was appointed a member of the Terengganu State Executive Council while Napsiah was named Negeri Sembilan State Executive Councillor.

In the case of Sanusi, there was some confusion. Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff said he had been offered the post of Executive Councillor, but had turned it down.

Sanusi, however, said the question of turning down the offer did not arise as he had never received any offer in the first place. Asked about this, Dr Mahathir said he met Sanusi, who is now the State Assemblyman for Kuah, yesterday.

At the meeting, Sanusi gave his views and stated his position on the matter.

"I need time and probably Datuk Sanusi also needs time to make a final decision," he said.