

23 AUG 1996

Sirim-Ariffin

ARIFFIN TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN SIRIM

SHAH ALAM, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Dr Mohamed Ariffin Haji Aton, who will take over as Sirim Berhad chief executive officer next month, said his first task is to implement measures that have been mapped out for the research body.

He said his priority was to fulfil the government's hopes on the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim).

"My task is not to make changes but to implement what has been planned, and whatever that should be speeded up as required by the Prime Minister will be implemented first," he told reporters after Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Sirim here.

Ariffin said he would closely study the new structure of the corporatised Sirim and he believed the foundation laid by outgoing Sirim Director-General Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali was the best for it to operate as a corporate body.

He will also spend his first six months to one year on the new job to find ways to increase staff efficiency and morale.

"I am very happy after my discussion with Dr Tajuddin just now because much of what he has done can make my job easier compared to what I did at Petronas when its research institute was corporatised and turned into a subsidiary," he said.

Ariffin, 51, a PhD holder in chemical engineering from Leeds University, is the managing director and chief executive officer of Petronas Research and Scientific Services Sdn Bhd.

He said he only learnt of his appointment when Dr Mahathir announced it while addressing Sirim employees during his visit.

"I am here because I was invited to the function," he said.

Dr Tajuddin, who joined Sirim in 1989, has been appointed the new chief executive officer of Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

In conjunction with his visit, the Prime Minister opened the Menara Sirim which houses the office of its chief executive officer and product display room.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding and his deputy Datuk Abu Bakar Daud, Tajuddin and Ariffin, then visited the five Sirim laboratories. -- BERNAMA

MNY YBY