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NEW BOSS TO RE-CHARGE TENAGA NASIONAL STAFF

SHAH ALAM, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, handpicked to head Tenaga Nasional Bhd, said today his immediate task was to re-energise the morale of its staff.

"I have this nice feeling of being welcomed into Tenaga, and I must do something for Tenaga," he told Bernama after a visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed to the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim) here.

Tajuddin, who said he had been informed by the prime minister that he would assume the post of executive chairman and chief executive officer, felt that expectations of him were high.

Countering the current joke on Tenaga Nasional's acronym TNB as "Total National Blackout," Tajuddin said: "My acronym for TNB is Tajuddin No Blackout... maybe."

Asked his strategy to make Tenaga Nasional a dynamic power utility company, Tajuddin, who is currently Sirim executive director, said his first task would be to look into and study the present structure of Tenaga Nasional and examine the best approach for adjustments.

Though he loved his work in Sirim which he considered as intellectually rewarding, Tajuddin said he was also looking forward to the challenge of helming a big organisation like Tenaga Nasional which was currently suffering from low morale resulting from the Aug 3 peninsular-wide power blackout.

As for Sirim, Tajuddin said he was happy that Dr Mahathir expressed satisfaction with what he had achieved over the last few years, achievements that were "a hard act to follow."

Dr Mahathir today announced the appointment of Dr Mohamed Ariffin Haji Aton as the new chief executive officer of the corporatised Sirim Bhd.

Tajuddin said he considered Ariffin, currently chief executive officer of Petronas Research and Scientific Services Bhd, as "the most qualified and suitable person" for Sirim, judging from his current post as he had vast experience in running a research company.

During his visit, Dr Mahathir inspected Block 24, home of Sirim Rapid Prototyping Services Sdn Bhd (Sirim RPS), a joint venture between Sirim and Transceiver Technology Sdn Bhd.

Sirim RPS has already started playing an important role in the hi-tech business by equipping itself with state-of-the-art equipment like the Stereolithography Apparatus and Laminated Object Manufacturing, the largest in the region. -- BERNAMA

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