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Mahathir-KSN

PM TELLS HALIM TO ENHANCE PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told newly appointed Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Abdul Halim Ali to work for greater cooperation between the public and private sectors under the Malaysia Incorporated concept.

The Prime Minister gave this message when he handed over the appointment letter to Abdul Halim today.

Abdul Halim, who will assume his new post on Tuesday, met Dr Mahathir for about 30 minutes at the Prime Minister's office.

Speaking to reporters later, Abdul Halim said the Prime Minister stressed public-private sector cooperation to enhance the country's economic development.

"Without the cooperation and efficiency of the civil service, we will certainly be unable to enhance economic development that is being carried out by the private sector," he said.

Abdul Halim said Dr Mahathir also wanted the effectiveness of the civil service to be improved further.

In addition, the Prime Minister told him to give special attention to several matters, including improving the government's financial management.

"I promised to carry out the tasks entrusted to me by the Prime Minister to the best of my ability," Abdul Halim said.

He said he would make changes in the civil service wherever necessary to back up those already introduced by outgoing Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

Earlier, Ahmad Sarji and Abdul Halim, who is the Foreign Ministry Secretary-General, signed documents for the official handover and acceptance of the post of Chief Secretary to the Government at the Prime Minister's Department.

Ahmad Sarji, who will retire on Monday after 35 years in the civil service, later paid a farewell call to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He reached retirement age in 1993 but his service was extended twice on contract. -- BERNAMA

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