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LEAD Mahathir-TNB

SIRIM D-G AHMAD TAJUDDIN TO REPLACE ANI AROPE IN TNB

LANGKAWI, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, the Director-General of Standards and Industrial Research Institute Malaysia (Sirim), will replace Tan Sri Dr Ani Arope as chief executive of Tenaga Nasional Berhad.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced this today in response to questions from reporters.

Dr Mahathir said Dr Ahmad Tajuddin, a 48-year-old engineer, will take over after Dr Ani's current contract as executive chairman expires this month.

Dr Ani's contract had expired last month but was extended by another month.

"We searched (for a successor) and found Datuk Ahmad Tajuddin suitable to take over as executive chairman," he told reporters after he witnessed the solemnisation of the marriage of a couple, Annuar Ibrahim and Juliana Alias, at Kampung Tok Senik, a tourism centre designed as a traditional Malay village and developed by the Maju Group.

On what he hoped for in Dr Ani's successor, Dr Mahathir said normally when a person took over an organisation his priority task would be to learn everything about it and identify its existing strengths and weaknesses.

Dr Ahmad Tajuddin, who celebrated his 48th birthday on Wednesday, will be returning to the utility company which he left almost exactly 19 years ago.

He joined the then National Electricity Board (NEB), the forerunner of TNB, as an assistant engineer in August 1973 and was appointed an engineer in July 1977, a month before he left to become a senior research officer at the Tun Ismail Atomic Research Centre (Puspati).

At Puspati, he rose steadily to head the reactor department, then became deputy director and later deputy director-general.

He was seconded to the International Atomic Energy Agency as project coordinator in Jakarta between February 1985 and July 1988, and returned to Malaysia in August 1988 to the Nuclear Energy Unit as deputy director-general.

In May 1989, he was appointed controller of Sirim, a post which was re-designated in 1993 as director-general. -- BERNAMA

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