

10 AUG 1996

Tajuddin

SIRIM DG WILL TAKE OVER AS TENAGA NASIONAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BANGI, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- Standards and Industrial Research Institute Malaysia (Sirim) Director-General Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali who is taking over as Tenaga Nasional Bhd chief executive said tonight he was informed of the appointment on Monday.

He said he received a call from Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at 5pm informing him that the appointment was effective Sept 1.

He will replace Tan Sri Dr Ani Arope whose contract as executive chairman expires this month.

"Dr Ahmad Tajuddin said: "I'm preparing mentally to head Tenaga Nasional but right now I'm occupied with the corporatisation of Sirim."

"This will be my top priority for the next two weeks," he added.

He said he had not studied Tenaga Nasional's operations but he would take note of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's comments on its weaknesses.

Dr Ahmad Tajuddin said his first task was to boost Tenaga Nasional's morale and image because he believes the electricity supply company has potential.

When asked whether he could guarantee that there would not be a recurrence of last week's peninsula-wide blackout, he said: "As an engineer, I can't give 100 per cent guarantee but I'll try my very best."

No public utility would want to give unefficient service to its customers, he said, adding that he was willing to rectify the weaknesses.

On the proposal for a second national grid, he said: "It is very early to say anything for I have to study everything...and I believe that Tenaga Nasional has many good engineers and staff."

He also expressed his gratitude for the trust given him by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad he hoped that all parties, especially Tenaga Nasional staff, shareholders and the public and private sectors would give him their cooperation. -- BERNAMA

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