

16/10/1998

Government opts for two finance ministers, also names new BNM chief

FOLLOWING the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as finance minister, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has assumed the portfolio of first finance minister and appointed Entrepreneur Development Minister, Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, as second finance minister.

This is the first time in Malaysia's history that there will be two finance ministers. The post fell vacant after Anwar was sacked as deputy prime minister and finance minister in the face of serious charges of corruption and sexual misconduct.

A statement by the PM's Department said Mustapa will be retaining his Entrepreneur Development portfolio. He has experience in the Finance ministry, having been deputy finance minister in 1994 under Anwar. Dr Mahathir, besides being the prime minister and first finance minister, is also home minister.

In a separate statement, the Finance ministry said Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman has been appointed BNM governor while Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz was named deputy governor. Ali was the director-general of the Economic Planning Unit in the PM's Department while Dr Zeti was one of the central bank's four assistant governors.

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