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Hashim appointed special assistant to Dr M

THE Prime Minister's press secretary Mohd Hashim Makaruddin has been appointed special assistant to the Prime Minister effective yesterday. He replaces Datuk Jalaluddin Bahaudin who retired last year.

Hashim, 48, who served as the press secretary to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad since 1991, is also the concurrent editor-in-chief of Bernama.

He was formerly the press secretary to the then Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin. He served Daim from 1985 to 1991.

Hashim's position as press secretary was filled by the former assistant press secretary, Zakaria Abdul Wahab.

Zakaria, 40, was the former assistant news editor (business and economic desk) of Bernama before he joined the Prime Minister's office in 1992 as the assistant press secretary to the Prime Minister.

He had served the national news agency since 1980 as a reporter and the bureau chief for Penang and Sarawak.

Both Hashim and Zakaria were seconded to the Prime Minister's Department from Bernama.

Former New Straits Times journalist, Sufi Yusoff will be the assistant press secretary to the Prime Minister effective March 2.

Sufi, 27, joined NST as a cadet reporter in 1991 and also served the NST branch in Kuala Terengganu for three years.

Sufi returned to Kuala Lumpur in 1997 and was reporter with the Crime and Defence Desk and later with the General News Desk.

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