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Mustapa-Duties

MUSTAPA SAYS HE WILL ASSIST MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Newly-appointed Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today his work is to assist Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is First Finance Minister.

Meeting the press for the first time since his appointment yesterday, Mustapa said his first role would be in helping Dr Mahathir formulate the 1999 budget.

"We know that Dr Mahathir is not only an expert in financial matters but in various fields as well, he calls the shots and I've to assist him," he said.

"There is no leader in the world who is as knowledgeable as Dr Mahathir on economic and financial matters," he said after launching the Beverlyhills Pizza outlet, here, today.

"I am lucky to have guidance from him on numerous matters including current economic developments, my work will be made much easier," said Mustapa, who is also Entrepreneur Development Minister.

Mustapa, 48, is not new to the Finance Ministry for he was Deputy Finance Minister in 1994 before being appointed Entrepreneur Development Minister in 1995.

Mustapa said: "The next few weeks will be devoted to learning, educating and upgrading myself as to what's going on in the economy."

"I will also be unwinding some of my external commitments in the Entrepreneur Development Ministry," he added.

Pressed for comments on various economic issues, he urged the media to give him some time to settle down.

-- BERNAMA

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