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Zainuddin-Senator

VETERAN JOURNALIST ZAINUDDIN MAIDIN APPOINTED SENATOR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 2 (Bernama) -- Former Utusan Melayu Group Editor-in-Chief Datuk Zainuddin Maidin has been appointed a member of the Dewan Negara (Senate) for a three-year term.

Dewan Negara secretary Abdullah Abdul Wahab said today Zainuddin's swearing-in ceremony will be held on Monday.

Zainuddin, 58, better known among fellow journalists as Zam, when contacted by Bernama described his appointment as an honour and a recognition of the role journalists in Malaysia.

He is the first person appointed to the Upper House of Parliament representing the journalistic fraternity.

"This is not only an honour to me but to all journalists who through their voice of moderation have contributed to the creation of a society which subscribes to a culture of tolerance based on Malaysia's own formula," he said.

Zam, who began his career in journalism in the late 1950's in Alor Setar, said the media in the country had made immense contribution to the process of socialisation and in creating a multi-racial society.

They had, under any circumstances, discharged their responsibility on the basis of mutual respect, harmony, solidarity and national stability, he said.

He started from the lowest rung as Utusan Melayu's part-time reporter, then the newspaper's correspondent for Kedah-Perlis, Chief Reporter in Kuala Lumpur, and later News Editor before reaching the highest editorial post as Editor-in-Chief from 1982-1992.

He is now the executive chairman of Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of the Utusan Melayu Group.

Zam has written four books, including "The Other Side of Mahathir" (the English translation of "Di Sebalik Tabir"), on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The book has also been translated into Chinese and Tamil.

Another is a biography of the second Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, "Jejak Bertapak Seorang Patriot".-- BERNAMA

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