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ABANG ABU TO UPLIFT ARMED FORCES' EXCELLENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- New Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha today pledged to continue with efforts to enhance the excellence of the Malaysian Armed Forces and defend its image.

Abang Abu, who was named to head the Defence Ministry in Prime Minister Datauk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Cabinet reshuffle yesterday, in a statement also said the armed forces would continue with efforts to upgrade its professionalism.

He succeeds Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar who has been appointed Foreign Minister to fill the vacancy created by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. Abdullah is now the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.

Abang Abu expressed his thanks to the Prime Minister for appointing him Defence Minister and pledged his full support and loyalty to Dr Mahathir.

He had served as Deputy Defence Minister from July 1981 to 1990.

Abang Abu is from the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, the backbone of the ruling Sarawak Barisan Nasional.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AAM