

29/12/1999

Abdul Aziz takes oath as Deputy Education Minister

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Deputy Education Minister Senator Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin took his oath of office before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah at Istana Negara today.

Among those present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

Abdul Aziz, 62, could not attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Government on Dec 14 as he was still recovering from a road crash at the North-South Expressway near Bukit Sentosa, two days after his appointment as Deputy Minister.

His wife Datin Asmah Ali Hussein died in the accident.

Speaking to reporters later, Abdul Aziz, who walked with the aid of crutches, said he hoped to report for duty as soon as possible.

"I hope to do so after the New Year holidays. However, in view of my condition, Dr Mahathir has advised me not to rush things."

In another function, the King awarded sailor Datuk Azhar Mansor with the Panglima Jasa Negara at a brief ceremony in Istana Negara.

The award was presented to Azhar for his feat in being the first Malaysian to sail solo around the world earlier this year. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and his wife attended.

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