

13/12/1999

Abu Zahar: New appointment an honour

MALACCA, Sun. - Former Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin today said his appointment as the new Parliamentary secretary to the Home Ministry was not a demotion but an honour and responsibility entrusted to him.

Abu Zahar said there should not be speculation that the appointment was a demotion.

"I treat this as a responsibility entrusted to me by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"It is certainly a task entrusted to me to ensure the security of the country.

"If people view my appointment as a demotion then, let them be... I sincerely feel the move made by Dr Mahathir is the best for all parties," he said when met at his house in Taman Tasek Utama, Ayer Keroh today.

He was asked to comment on suggestions made by the people that the appointment was a demotion for him.

Abu Zahar added that the Home Ministry was one of the most important Ministries in the Cabinet as it was entrusted with matters pertaining to security.

"Security is an important factor to ensure continued economic growth."

He said as a `new man' in the Cabinet, he would try to fulfil the job requirements as best as he could and assist the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who is also Home Minister.

Abu Zahar also described the appointment of academician Tan Sri Musa Mohamad as Education Minister as timely.

"The Government cannot be accused of having politicians only for ministerial appointments as it is a mixture of both politicians and academicians," he said.

(END)