

20 DEC 1999

Parliament-Antics

ANTICS BY MEMBERS AT OATH TAKING

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 20 (Bernama) -- Various antics of new and even old faces were seen at the oath taking by Members of Parliament in the Dewan Rakyat here today.

Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong), an MP since 1982, attracted attention for his ability to memorise the text of the pledge provided.

Some MPs were seen whispering to each other as Dr Tan confidently recited his loyalty pledge before Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail.

Newcomer Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (Keadilan-Permatang Pauh) took her oath in a steady tone.

Many of the MPs from the opposition also emphasised the words "... akan mempertahankan Perlembagaan" (to defend the Constitution) in taking their oaths.

A total of 189 of the 193 MPs took their oath at the start of the first parliamentary sitting after the 10th general election on Nov 29.

The oath taking was led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, followed by Cabinet members, government backbenchers and opposition members.

Members absent today were Terengganu Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang (PAS-Marang) and Mustafa Ali (PAS-Dungun).

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka DR Abdul Hamid Othman and Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad were sworn-in as Senators on Dec 13.

Opposition MPs initially boycotted the oath taking ceremony which started at 10.30am but they returned into the Dewan at 12.15pm just as the government backbenchers were about to complete their oath taking.

In the afternoon session, Dr Mahathir proposed the names of Datuk Lim Si Cheng (BN-Senai) and Datuk Muhammad Abdullah (BN-Maran) as Deputy Speakers.

The motion was seconded by Works Minister Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu.

Lim and Muhammad replace Datuk Ong Tee Keat who is now Deputy Youth and Sports Minister and Datuk Juhar Mahiruddin who did not stand in the Nov 29 general election.

Zahir also acknowledged Datuk Fadzil Noor as Opposition leader in place of Lim Kit Siang, the DAP chairman who lost in the Nov 29 general election.

-- BERNAMA

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