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#### Appointment of Musa as Education Minister lauded

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia hopes that more such appointments like that of Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, a non-politician, to the Cabinet will be made in future.

Its president, Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman, said Musa's appointment has "opened the door" for other non-politicians to be included in the Cabinet.

Musa, who is former Universiti Sains Malaysia vice-chancellor, will be sworn in as Senator on Monday. He replaces Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who has moved to the defence portfolio.

Ahmad Azam hoped the appointment of some young politicians into the Cabinet would inject new ideas and approaches to meet the aspirations of the post-New Economic Policy generation who were more critical and global in their thinking.

Social activist Datuk Lee Lam Thye said the new Cabinet, which comprised both experienced and new faces, played an important role in providing a strong and efficient government to address issues and challenges.

Lee said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given a lot of thought to the formation of the new Cabinet.

Negri Sembilan Indian Chamber of Commerce president Dr T.V.K. Balakrishnan said he was impressed by the appointment of Musa as the new Education Minister.

He also praised Dr Mahathir's decision in retaining Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as International Trade and Industry Minister considering her good track record.

However, Balakrishnan said the Indian and Chinese communities had expected to see an increase in the MIC and MCA representation in the Cabinet.

"Considering that votes from these two communities had contributed largely in helping Barisan Nasional gain a convincing win in the general election, the communities' quota should have been increased," he said.

Chinese Assembly Hall of Negri Sembilan vice-chairman Ng Kim Chu said he was surprised over Musa's appointment as there were many elected representatives who could have been given the post.

Ng said that from the election result, he had expected many changes in the Cabinet.

"Maybe the changes will come after the Umno elections next year," he added.

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