

10 JAN 1999

Cabinet

CABINET RESHUFFLE STIMULATES ECONOMIC GROWTH - MTUC

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) has lauded the Cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Friday saying that the move will stimulate the nation's economic growth.

Its president, Senator Zainal Rampak, said the reshuffle would restore investor's confidence in injecting funds into the country.

"Indirectly, it will contribute to a more robust economic growth," he told Bernama today.

Zainal said the MTUC also welcomed the appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as deputy prime minister and home minister.

"Abdullah will be able to help the prime minister restore public confidence," he said.

Zainal also welcomed the appointment of Tun Daim Zainuddin as first finance minister saying that Daim's vast experience was needed for the country's economic planning.

He said the MTUC hoped Daim, who had been also retained as special functions minister, would come up with a national budget which meets the people's aspirations and taking into account the interest of all parties.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the reshuffle would lighten the responsibilities shouldered by the prime minister.

He said the appointment of Abdullah and Daim to the post of deputy prime minister and first finance minister allowed Dr Mahathir to focus on economic recovery efforts.

Wan Mokhtar said this to reporters after breaking fast with Pasar Payang traders here, yesterday.

Also lauding the reshuffle is the Malaysian Senators Club.

Its secretary-general, Senator Rosli Mat Hassan, said the move to name Abdullah as the deputy prime minister was appropriate since he was well respected in political and international circles.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Malay Journalists Association president Yazid Othman said Abdullah's appointment would further help the government's standing internationally due to his wide experience in foreign affairs.

He said Abdullah was an able leader and has integrity as proven by his political career.

Yazid also said the association would continue in its efforts to work closely with the deputy prime minister in all fronts for the benefit of the nation through journalistic efforts.

Abdullah is patron of the association.

-- BERNAMA