

14 DEC 1999

Cabinet-swearing-in

DR MAHATHIR LEADS NEW CABINET AT SWEARING IN

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad led members of the new federal Cabinet and deputy ministers to take the oaths of office, loyalty and secrecy before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Aziz Shah at Istana Negara here today.

The ceremony was held at the Throne Room of the palace following the return of the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition to power in last month's general election.

The BN won 148 of 193 parliamentary seats at stake in the Nov 29 polls.

Dr Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi each took their oaths individually upon receiving the letters of appointment from his majesty.

They then signed their oaths witnessed by the Chief Justice of the Federal Court Tun Mohamed Eusoff Chin and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

The rest of the ministers and deputy ministers received their letters of appointment from his majesty and read out their oaths in groups.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah was also present at the televised swearing-in ceremony.

The federal Cabinet sworn in today has nine new ministers covering 28 portfolios.

The new ministers are Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Datuk Rais Yatim, both ministers in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn (Human Resources), Datuk Ong Ka Ting (Housing and Local Government), Datuk Nazri Abdul Aziz (Entrepreneur Development), Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein (Youth and Sports), Datuk Effendi Norwawi (Agriculture), Datuk Azmi Khalid (Rural Development) and Tan Sri Musa Mohamad (Education).

Yesterday, Musa was sworn in as a senator for a three-year term effective Dec 11 together with Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman to enable them to take up the federal ministership.

Abdul Hamid was reappointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, the post he held in the last Cabinet.

Dr Mahathir first announced the formation of the new federal Cabinet last Friday.

Today's entire swearing in ceremony lasted for two hours.

After that Sultan Salahuddin set aside protocol to mingle and exchange pleasantries with the new Cabinet members and deputy ministers.

His majesty also consented to a having a group photograph taken with them.

Also present were wife of the prime minister Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and wife of the deputy prime minister Datin Seri Endon Mahmood.

-- BERNAMA

HS ARA RYN