

09 JAN 1999

Mahathir-Zaharah

DR SITI ZAHARAH APPOINTED MINISTER IN THE PM'S DEPARTMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman has been appointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Siti Zaharah was appointed minister and not a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department, as announced by him yesterday.

"I would like to make a correction. Yesterday, I made an inaccurate announcement regarding Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah. Actually, her appointment is as minister and not deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department," he told reporters after a visit to the Immigration Department headquarters, here.

Dr Mahathir announced the Cabinet reshuffle yesterday after an Umno Supreme Council meeting. He has announced the appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as deputy prime minister.

He also announced the appointment of Deputy Home Minister Datuk Mohamed Tajol Rosli Ghazali as minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Other ministers in the Prime Minister's Department are Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and Senator Datuk Chong Kah Kiat.

Dr Siti Zaharah, 49, is deputy health minister. She held the post since 1995.

She was elected Wanita Umno chief in 1996, defeating International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz in the party election.

Born in Lanchang in Mentakab, Pahang, she received her early education at Sekolah Sultan Abu Bakar in Kuantan and studied for her Higher School Certificate at Institut Teknologi Mara.

She obtained her B.A. from the University of New York, Albana and her Ph.D (Educational Administration and Organisation Studies) from Cornell University in the United States.

Dr Siti Zaharah served as planning officer in the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (Language and Literary Centre) before her appointment as deputy minister in the prime minister's department in 1986.

She is the Member of Parliament for Paya Besar.

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