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Effendi-Reaction

EFFENDI SHOCKED OVER MINISTER'S POST

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Effendi Norwawi named as the new Agriculture Minister said today the appointment came as a total shock to him as he never expected a cabinet post.

Nonetheless, the appointment by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a heavy responsibility to him.

"The post comes with full of challenges and opportunities to serve the people in the agriculture sector," he told BERNAMA in his house at Jalan Duta here.

He thanked Dr Mahathir and Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud for their confidence and trust in him.

"I did not expect this appointment. I only knew about it after Dr Mahathir's announcement of his cabinet on television," said Effendi, who replaces Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

The 51-year-old businessman was elected as the MP for Kuala Rajang in the just-concluded general election. He is also the assemblyman for Dalat in Sarawak.

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