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Profile-Hishammuddin
HISHAMMUDDIN A RISING STAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- In took British-trained lawyer Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, 38, just seven years in politics to reach the top.

Formerly deputy primary industries minister, Hishammuddin was promoted to Youth and Sports Minister in the Cabinet line-up announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

Son of former Prime Minister the late Tun Hussein Onn and Toh Puan Suhaila Mohamed Noah, he is seen as one of the new breed of suave and international affairs-savvy Malay politicians.

Umno is literally Hishammuddin's inheritance as his late grandfather Datuk Onn Jaafar was the founder and his father the party's first youth head who went on to become party president and prime minister.

Hishammuddin's rise in Umno Youth too was no less impressive.

Hishammuddin began his political career in 1993 as Ledang Umno Youth chief and shot into prominence the same year when he secured a seat in the Umno Youth executive committee with the biggest number of votes -- 291.

In 1995, he became the Johor Umno Youth chief, then appointed Johor Umno information chief and now he heads the Tenggara Umno division.

Hishammuddin, who won the deputy Youth chief's post in his first try in 1996, is now acting Umno Youth chief following the resignation of then chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi in October 1998.

In his first term as Member of Parliament for Tenggara in 1995, Hishammuddin was made Parliamentary Secretary of the International Trade and Industry Ministry and in 1997, he became Deputy Primary Industries Minister.

Hishammuddin, who successfully defended his Tenggara parliamentary seat in the Nov 29 general election, is married to Tengku Marsilla Tengku Abu Bakar and the couple have three children.

-- BERNAMA
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