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Abdullah-Image

HOME MINISTRY TO IMPROVE IMAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- All department and agency heads under the Home Ministry have agreed to improve the image of their respective organisations, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Such effort would be one of the ministry's priorities, he told reporters after chairing his first post-Cabinet meeting as Home Minister here today.

Policies and programmes implemented by the ministry when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the Home Minister, would be continued, he said.

Abdullah was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister in last Friday's Cabinet reshuffle.

The two deputy ministers Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and Datuk Ong Ka Ting also attended the meeting. Kadir is a new face at the ministry as he was previously Human Resources Deputy Minister.

Abdullah said that he emphasised at the meeting the urgency for departments and agencies under the ministry to maintain good image and give their best in discharging their public responsibilities.

"They (staff of the departments and agencies) should display the spirit of ever willing to serve the people in a friendly way," he said.

Abdullah said department and agency heads should lead by example and cooperate to ensure the public get quality service.

"They should put consensus and teamwork first," he said.

Abdullah shared with the meeting his experience in dealing with Asean matters as Foreign Minister previously by advising the officers to resolve problems through negotiations and discussions, as was the Asean way, and not to employ methods which only bring about undesirable consequences.

He also reminded them to show loyalty to the government.

Asked what he would concentrate on in the ministry, Abdullah said he would get the various department and agency heads to brief him on their functions and responsibilities.

His priority would be to get departments and agencies dealing with the public to improve their service quality, said Abdullah.

Besides the police, the Immigration and Prisons departments are also under the Home Ministry.

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