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Industrial action a rarity, says Kadir

Hamisah Hamid

UNLIKE many countries, Malaysia has hardly observed any strike or other related action by the workers, says newly-appointed Deputy Home Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

The former deputy human resource minister said Malaysia is the right model for a country which has managed to overcome and resolve any industrial disputes.

"This sort of industrial action is very rare here in Malaysia," he told reporters after handing over his duties to his successor, former Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Affifuddin Omar at the Human Resources Ministry yesterday.

Abdul Kadir, who is also former Deputy Human Resources Minister, attributed the almost zero-strike situation in Malaysia to the good work delivered by various agencies and departments under the ministry such as the Social Security Organisation and Manpower Department.

He said the ministry may not be a popular ministry like others, but it had performed well.

"Not popular does not mean we have not succeeded. We can see that there are hardly any strikes," he said, attributing the good performance to the excellent works done by.

Also present at the brief ceremony were the ministry secretary-general Datuk Zainol Abidin Abd Rashid and heads of departments.

Both deputy ministers began their duties yesterday, following the major Cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad late Friday.

On his new post, Abdul Kadir said he will assist the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to create a friendly administration within the ministry.

This is in line with the aspiration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the Home Ministry to adopt a people-friendly approach.

Abdul Kadir said he would use his experience to make the ministry as friendly as possible.

The deputy minister said he believed that he could utilise all the skills he had acquired from serving at various ministries to its optimum. Apart from Human Resources Ministry, Abdul Kadir had also served Foreign Ministry and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

Affifuddin meanwhile expressed his hope to contribute to the ministry the best possible way he could.

He said compared with his previous ministry which is involved in distributing allocation for government expenditure, the new post would enable him to implement the Government policies related to human resource.

"I am proud to come here after serving the Finance Ministry for three years. I hope my new responsibility at the (human resources) ministry would benefit me and the country," he said.

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