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Kadir thanks PM, says patience pays off

DATUK Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir yesterday thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for appointing him as the Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, saying that his patience in the party and in the Cabinet has paid off.

"I have been in the Cabinet for the last 16 years ... my name is mentioned when there is a Cabinet reshuffle but nothing happens ... only now, it is true," he told reporters in Shah Alam after launching a skills-enhancement programme for students.

Kadir said he has served UMNO for the past 43 years, describing it as a "long and tough journey".

He advised party members to be prepared to work hard instead of aspiring for posts. They should give priority to the party struggle.

"I became a lawyer in 1970 at a time when there were not many graduates in the party. I could have risen fast but I took it step by step to be where I am now," he said.

Abdul Kadir was the Deputy Home Minister before Dr Mahathir named him as the successor to Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik, who resigned as Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister effective yesterday.

"I would like to thank the Prime Minister for giving me a chance to do my duty for the Government and the people," he said.

Kadir also said that he had the opportunity to serve under all of the country's prime ministers.

Bernama reports: Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob, who has been appointed Information Minister to replace Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, thanked the party and the government leadership for their confidence in him.

He said he would do his best not to disappoint them.

Khalil said as Umno secretary-general, he would continue with the good work by his predecessor Sabbaruddin because there is continuity among Umno members.

Meanwhile, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid described his new appointment as Deputy Home Minister as a new responsibility. "It's a new area for me," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Azmi said he would familiarise himself with his new duties as soon as possible. He also thanked the Prime Minister for the appointment. He replaces Abdul Kadir who has been promoted as Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

In Kuantan, Pahang executive councillor and state assemblyman for Pelangai, Datuk Adnan Yaakob expressed gratitude to Dr Mahathir for entrusting him with the heavy responsibility of heading the Pahang State Government.

"I heard the Prime Minister's announcement and I thank him for his faith in me and this is indeed a heavy responsibility," he said.

"God willing, I will discharge my new duties to the best of my ability," he said.

The changes, if any, to the State Executive Council will only be announced after he takes his oath before the Sultan of Pahang at Istana Abu Bakar in Pekan on Tuesday.

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