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Khalil-Job

KHALIL HINTS INNOVATIONS AT INFORMATION MINISTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26 (Bernama) -- On the first day at his new job as Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob hinted about bringing innovations to the ministry besides continuing with its existing policies.

He did not elaborate.

"Give me some time," Khalil told reporters who approached him after his predecessor Datuk Mohamed Rahmat officially handed over duty to him at Angkasapuri here.

Khalil, formerly Pahang Menteri Besar, said it would not be easy to emulate "Tok Mat", the name Mohamed is affectionately known by.

"I'll seek his views in carrying out my work," said Khalil.

Asked whether at today's cabinet weekly meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave him few pointers or directives on going about his new job, Khalil said Dr Mahathir only asked him to get in touch with Mohamed.

Khalil, 60, who made his debut as federal minister at today's cabinet meeting, took his oath of office and allegiance together with two other new ministers and a deputy minister before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah yesterday,

Khalil was sworn in as a Senator on Monday to enable him to join the federal cabinet.

He said he admired Mohamed for making an honourable exit from the Cabinet "and for willingly wanting to assist him and with a smile at that".

Khalil was also asked about his priorities as the incoming Umno secretary-general following Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin's resignation from the post last week.

Sabbaruddin also resigned as Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister and was succeeded by Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Khalil said that uppermost he would concentrate on enlightening party members on current political and economic issues and countering lies spread about Umno and its leaders through the Internet.

"We'll tackle it from all angles. But that does not mean that we need to counter all allegations and lies on the Internet," he said.

Khalil said he would hold a series of familiarisation meetings with state Umno liaison committees and spare no efforts to reinforce and streamline the party machinery with the latest technology.

Asked about plans to rejuvenate Umno, Khalil said the party would get more professionals to join.

"I have several other plans. Give me time," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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