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Long, arduous journey pays off for Kadir

Annie Freeda Cruetz

SHAH ALAM, Thurs. - Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, who was appointed Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, was one of the happiest persons following the Cabinet reshuffle.

"It was a long and arduous journey but it has paid off.

"It is a befitting example to the young politicians to have patience for they will reap what they have toiled for," said the father of four, of his climb up the political ladder.

He said he was informed earlier of the good news by the Prime Minister but waited for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to make the official announcement.

Kadir had his primary education at Sekolah Melayu Tawar followed by Sekolah Menengah Sultan Badlishah Kulim.

He self-studied for the Higher School Certificate and passed with a full certificate in 1962.

He studied law at Lincoln's Inn, London.

Abdul Kadir who taught as a teacher at Sekolah Inggeris Serdang and Sekolah Kebangsaan Baling, both in Kedah started as a clerk at the Public Works Department, Alor Star in 1960 before moving to the Foreign Ministry.

Among positions held by Abdul Kadir are:

* 1971 to 1974 - political secretary to the Minister of Welfare Services, April 1982 to May 1983 - Parliamentary secretary in the Foreign Ministry;

* October 1990 to May 1995 - Deputy Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister;

* May 1995 to January 1999 - Deputy Human Resources Minister and

* January 1999 to now - Deputy Home Minister.

"The short stint at the Home Ministry is something very memorable as I liked working with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, and there were a lot of things especially laws and regulations that I felt needed to be improved."

Speaking to reporters at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Sekyzen 24 here today, Abdul Kadir said the Ministry posed a lot of challenges.

However, he added that he was also looking forward to facing another new challenge as a Minister.

Abdul Kadir said upcoming politicians must have patience and rise step by step instead of seeking positions immediately.

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