24 DEC 1999
Abdullah-Ministers
MINISTERS CANNOT HAVE BUSINESS INTERESTS

    PUTRAJAYA, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir
Mohamad has reminded ministers that they cannot have business interests and
should relinquish any post they hold in companies.
    Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said this was
among the 13 aspects of responsibility and 14 points related to ethics for
a minister as presented by Dr Mahathir at the new Cabinet's first meeting
on Dec 15.
    Abdullah said the Prime Minister told ministers that whenever
discussions that might be related to their families cropped up they should
excuse themselves from the meeting.
    Dr Mahathir reiterated that ministers should be honest, sincere,
diligent, efficient and open when discharging their duties.
    "The Prime Minister also said they should be hands-on in their work,"
Abdullah told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Committee on Good
Governance here today.

    He said Dr Mahathir told them to fully understand what was contained in
the Barisan Nasional (BN) manifesto for last month's general election.
    Ministers were also told to better understand and work closely with
their officers to ensure all programmes and Cabinet directives could be
implemented speedily.
    They should also identify and overcome bureaucratic procedures that
were delaying the implementation of projects, Abdullah said.
    "Ministers are responsible for taking follow-up actions to find out the
actual status on implementation of directives conveyed to officers," he
said.
    This includes the level of implementation for projects under the
ministries.

    Ministers should also ensure that all officers have their own work
procedure manual in order to perform their duties properly and speedily.
    He said they were required to hold meetings with their officers to
discuss all matters related to their ministries.
    "Dr Mahathir also reminded them of their collective responsibility on
whatever matter that is decided by the Cabinet," Abdullah said.
    -- BERNAMA
    MAM YBY