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Abdullah-Reaction

MORE SUPPORT FOR ABDULLAH'S APPOINTMENT AS DPM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- The appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Deputy Prime Minister will further boost the peoples' confidence in Umno and the national administration under the Barisan Nasional, Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president Datuk Leo Moggie said.

Describing the former Foreign Minister as a credible and experienced politician and national leader, Moggie said Abdullah's appointment was timely and appropriate in removing whatever doubts and uncertainty there were on the vacancy.

Moggie, who is also Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister, said the cabinet line-up announced by Dr Mahathir yesterday strengthened national sovereignty and the peoples' confidence on efforts towards economic recovery.

Abdullah's appointment was announced yesterday by the Prime Minister after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting. Abdullah is also the Minister of Home Affairs.

In KOTA KINABALU, Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok has hailed Abdullah's appointment as the new Deputy Prime Minister.

"A trusted leader, and (he) has all the capabilities to assume the number two post after having previously held various important cabinet posts," he said of Abdullah.

As one of the country's most respected leader, Abdullah would certainly command the support of the people and would also have the full support of the Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN), said Dompok who is Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) president.

He also welcomed the reappointment of Tun Daim Zainuddin as the Finance Minister, saying that Daim was no stranger to the ministry, having been a successful Finance Minister before.

Meanwhile the Back Benchers' Club (BBC) is confident that Abdullah's appointment would help the Prime Minister in his struggles to further uplift the image of the race and country in the global era.

BBC chairman Ruhanie Ahmad said the cabinet reshuffle was an effort towards national economic recovery, enhancing sovereignty and promoting peace and national security.

In KOTA BAHARU, Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat described Abdullah as someone who fulfilled the criteria for a leader and hoped he could assist Kelantan particularly in speeding up the yearly financial assistance from the central government to the state government.

On the appointment of Abdullah as Home Minister, Nik Aziz hoped several religious aspects such as fairness and a sense of camaraderie would be taken into consideration in the administration of a democratic country.

"Abdullah, being the son of a religious teacher and I'm also a religious teacher and there are similarities....and we hope to govern in a fair manner," he added.

In KUCHING, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Abdullah, who has a strong religious background, was an appropriate choice.

"Abdullah is a clean man, (he's) wise with strong religious principles although he has not promoted himself as a great religious leader," he added.

In TELUK INTAN, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib described Abdullah's appointment as a smart, careful and fair choice made according to the law.

"The cabinet reshuffle was also well and smoothly done without dropping anyone," he added.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said Abdullah's experience at the international level would help the country in handling issues on economy, trade and investments.

He said Abdullah was also a team player and could work with any minister in handling national problems.

In ALOR SETAR, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said Abdullah's experience in the government and as former Foreign Minister would help him in carrying out his functions as Deputy Prime Minister more effectively.

Sanusi also said the reappointment of Tun Daim Zainuddin as Finance Minister was appropriate as he had helped the country to come out of the economic recession previously.

In MELAKA, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin said Abdullah's experience as a former bureaucrat, who has held senior posts as a civil servant and who has deep religious background, filled the criteria for the post.

President of the Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Service (Cuepacs), Siva Subramaniam expressed confidence that Abdullah's appointment would open up a new chapter in Malaysia's history and would provide confidence to and receive the trust of everyone.

In KANGAR, state Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary Datuk Bahari Taib, in expressing his support, said Abdullah's appointment would strengthen the position of BN and Umno in facing the coming general elections.

Malaysian Youth Council president Saifuddin Abdullah said the appointment was appropriate in the face of the economic crisis as the Prime Minister needed an able deputy to assist him.

Deputy president of the Malaysian Malay Chambers of Commerce Datuk Abdul Rahman Maidin said the appointment of Abdullah and Daim would strengthen Dr Mahathir's leadership and assist his efforts in taking the country to greater heights in the coming millennium.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, the Malaysian Malay Contractors Association (PKMM) said Daim's appointment would inject new life to the future of the association and expressed confidence that he would play a role in bringing economic recovery based on his track record.

In JOHOR BAHRU, deputy chairman of the Johor MCA liaison committee Datuk Jimmy Low said the appointment ended various speculations which were disturbing and at the same time boosted the confidence of foreign investors.

In JASIN, former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba urged the people particularly Umno members to support Abdullah's appointment.

Speaking to reporters after breaking fast with the people at Masjid Taman Maju, near Jasin tonight, he said Abdullah should be given the opportunity to assist Dr Mahathir in administering the country and strengthening Umno.

He said Abdullah understood the party's struggles and could contribute towards strengthening Umno.

Ghaffar, who was also a former Umno deputy president and member of parliament for Jasin, described the decision of the party's supreme council yesterday to defer the party elections as a good move to enable party leaders to concentrate fully on the coming general elections.

-- BERNAMA