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Musa

MUSA SURPRISED OVER APPOINTMENT AS EDUCATION MINISTER

PULAU PINANG, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- Education Minister designate, Tan Sri Musa Mohamed, who was surprised over his appointment, is determined to carry out his duties to the best of his ability to ensure the continued development of education in the country.

He said his appointment came as a surprise because he had never expected that his services were still needed although he had retired from his last post as Vice Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), here four years ago.

When met at his residence, "Villa Nadia" here, he expressed gratitude to Allah on his appointment and thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for placing his trust on him to lead such a challenging ministry.

"It had never crossed my mind to be appointed a minister because I'm not from the political ranks and have never joined any political party. However, I do follow political developments in the country," he said.

Musa, 56, said he was only informed about the appointment by the Prime Minister today.

Asked what would be his first task upon assuming office, Musa said he would look at all aspects on education deeply before taking any action.

He said it was too early for him to indicate what he would do. But he would hold discussions with his deputies, officers and education experts before making any decision whether any new education policy was needed.

He said it was not appropriate for him to do anything in haste because the introduction of any policy would leave an impact many years later.

"After discussions, we will decide whether any new strategy is needed, otherwise, we will continue with the present policy," he said.

At the moment, his wife, Puan Sri Fauziah Shahrom, who is also USM Registrar, is overseas and will return on Sunday.

Born in Bagan Datoh, Perak, Musa was seconded to USM from the Health Ministry at the request of the university's first Vice Chancellor.

He received his early education in Bagan Datoh before going to Sekolah Menengah Sungai Sumun, which is now known as Sekolah Menengah Khir Johari, Clifford High School, Kuala Kangsar, Malay College Kuala Kangsar and later to University of Singapore where he obtained his first degree in pharmaceutical science in 1962.

In 1970, he went for post-graduate studies in the same discipline at the University of London.

After retirement from USM, Musa was made chairmen of several companies. He has five children aged between nine and 27.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, who used to serve under Musa's administration at USM, described the appointment as appropriate in view of his ability to carry out the heavy responsibility.

He believed Musa's experience and expertise would inject new ideas in the field of education and his appointment was also a significant change because only politicians were appointed as cabinet ministers in the past.

-- BERNAMA

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