

15 DEC 1999
Mahathir-Cabinet
NEW CABINET HOLDS FIRST MEETING

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today chaired the first meeting of new federal Cabinet at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Before chairing the meeting at 9.30 am, Dr Mahathir, clad in a dark suit, led the ministers to a group photograph with the entrance of the Prime Minister's Department as background.

Today's meeting saw nine new ministers taking their seats in a Cabinet covering 28 portfolios.

They are Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Datuk Rais Yatim, both ministers in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn (Human Resources), Datuk Ong Ka Ting (Housing and Local Government), Datuk Nazri Abdul Aziz (Entrepreneur Development), Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein (Youth and Sports), Datuk Effendi Norwawi (Agriculture), Datuk Azmi Khalid (Rural Development) and Tan Sri Musa Mohamad (Education).

Yesterday Dr Mahathir led his Cabinet members to take the oaths of office, loyalty and secrecy before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Aziz Shah at Istana Negara.

Musa and Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman were sworn in as senators last Monday to enable them to take up the federal ministership.

Abdul Hamid was reappointed Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, the post he held in the last Cabinet.

Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, announced the formation of the new federal Cabinet last Friday.

The BN won 148 of 193 parliamentary seats at stake in the Nov 29 polls.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali also attended today's meeting.

-- BERNAMA
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