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New Ministers in PM's Department report for work

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The new Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department appointed by the Prime Minister just before Hari Raya Puasa reported for work today.

In a ceremony which also included a farewell for the outgoing Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Halim Ali welcomed new Ministers Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman and Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

He also welcomed Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali.

Halim bade farewell to former Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, who is now Defence Minister, former Deputy Ministers Datuk Nazri Tan Sri Aziz (now Deputy Finance Minister) and Datuk Ibrahim Saad (now Deputy Transport Minister).

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman and Public Service director-general Datuk Samsuddin Othman.

In his speech read by Nazri, Abang Abu Bakar described his eight years with the department as "memorable", especially under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abang Abu Bakar was suffering from a sore throat and was not able to address the gathering.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told a Press conference: "My job has been made easier because Malaysia has a very clear foreign policy and I intend to continue it."

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