

20 MAY 1999

PANDIKAR AMIN, SHAFIE THANK PRIME MINISTER

KOTA KINABALU, May 20 (Bernama) -- President of the Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) Datuk Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia who was today named Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in a minor Cabinet reshuffle has pledged to serve to the best of his abilities.

Pandikar Amin said he was indebted to the Prime Minister for appointing him to the Federal Cabinet even though he was president only of a small party in the Barisan Nasional.

"I will strive to discharge my duties to the best of my abilities," he said when contacted.

Pandikar Amin would be sworn in as a Senator on Monday to enable him to take up the Cabinet post vacated by Datuk Chong Kah Kiat who resigned to contest in the Sabah state election in March.

He said the appointment showed that Dr Mahathir valued the contributions of all BN component parties irrespective of their size.

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Shafie Apdal who has been named Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister also thanked the Prime Minister.

He also pledged to carry out his new duties well.

--BERNAMA

HAK AAM