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Zainal Abidin thankful to PM

IPOH, Sun. - Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin, a former Semangat 46 vice-president who rejoined Umno last year, yesterday thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for giving him the opportunity to serve in his Cabinet.

Zainal, 59, the newly-appointed Deputy Home Minister, said it was rare for someone like him to serve under Dr Mahathir again after a lapse of 12 years.

The Bagan Serai Member of Parliament last held the Post, Energy and Telecommunications Deputy Minister post in 1987 before he was dropped.

"This is the second time Dr Mahathir has put his faith in me, the first was when he chose me as a candidate to contest in Bagan Serai in the recent election.

"It is an endorsement of his faith and a recognition of my support for him as well as the support of all my constituents," he said.

Zainal, a former teacher who joined Umno in 1965, first contested the Gunong Semanggol State seat in 1978 and won. Subsequently, he was appointed the State Executive Councillor for Agriculture.

In 1982, he won the Bagan Serai parliamentary seat and was appointed parliamentary secretary for the Land and Regional Development Ministry.

Zainal, who was also the Deputy Works Minister from 1984-86, said the Home Ministry would be an entirely new field for him.

"Even though it is only the Deputy's post, it is still a heavy responsibility and I will carry out my duties to the best of my ability," he said.

On Barisan Nasional losing the Gunung Semanggol State seat to Pas, Zainal said the battle was not yet lost and there was still time to win back the support of the people.

Gunong Semanggol is one of the two State seats in the Bagan Serai parliamentary constituency.

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