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Dzaiddin-Appoint

DZAIDDIN APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE FEDERAL COURT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Federal Court Judge Tan Sri Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah has been appointed the Chief Justice of the Federal Court.

The appointment was decided at the 187th meeting of the Conference of Rulers which ended here today, according to a statement issued by the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal here today.

The two-day meeting also decided on the appointment of Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman as the new Election Commission chairman.

Mohamed Dzaiddin, 63, was born in Arau on Sept 16, 1937. He received his primary education in a Malay school in Arau and later entered the Sultan Abdul Hamid College in Alor Setar.

He was called to the English Bar on July 19, 1966 and the Malayan Bar on Jan 28, 1967.

Mohamed Dzaiddin, who was a former Malay Mail reporter, was appointed a High Court Judge on Oct 1, 1982 and a Supreme Court Judge on Dec 18, 1992.

He was conferred a Datukship by the Raja of Perlis in 1983 and received the "Darjah Yang Mulia Pangkuan Negeri (DMPN)" which carries the "Datuk" title from the Penang Yang Dipertua Negeri in 1987.

He was bestowed the "Datuk Paduka" title by the Raja of Perlis in 1996 and "Panglima Setia Mahkota" (PSM) by the Federal Government on June 3. The PSM award carries the "Tan Sri" title.

The statement did not say when Mohamed Dzaiddin's appointment would be effective. He succeeds Tun Mohamed Eusoff Chin.

Abdul Rashid, 57, was appointed the Election Commission chairman to replace Datuk Omar Mohamed Hashim, who retires tomorrow.

The appointment marked the return of Abdul Rashid to his old turf as he is not an "alien" to the commission.

He served for 17 years in the commission including as its secretary.

From the commission, he moved to the Education Ministry as its deputy secretary-general (II) on Oct 1995 and retired on Dec 31, 1997 as the ministry's deputy secretary-general (I).

In his 30-year public service career, Abdul Rashid held various other positions, including as Melaka municipal council secretary and deputy director-general in the then Local Government and Federal Territory Ministry.

Today's meeting was attended by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah accompanied by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

According to the statement, matters on government policies and religion were also discussed at the meeting chaired by the Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah.

The meeting which started yesterday was attended by all the Rulers except the Sultan of Johor and Kedah.

The Sultan of Johor was represented by the Tunku Mahkota Tunku Ibrahim Ismail while the Raja Muda attended on behalf of the Kedah Sultan.

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