

09 SEP 2000

MAHATHIR-TENAGA

IT'S TAJUDDIN'S PEROGATIVE TO DECLINE TNB OFFER, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Sept (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that it is the perogative of former Tenaga Nasional Bhd executive chairman, Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali to turn down the post of chief executive officer and that of president of the utility company.

"Maybe, he wants to assume other work, that's his right," he said at a press conference after opening the headquarters building of KUB.com.

Asked on the possibility if Ahmad Tajuddin declined the offer to take up the post of chief executive officer and president as he was "in a limbo", Dr Mahathir said, "I do not know. I think there must have been a miscommunication. I was away then in America."

On how he rated Ahmad Tajuddin's performance while he was at the helm of TNB, Dr Mahathir said he had done a good job at the power company.

On the appointment of Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis as Tenaga Nasional's new chairman, he said the new chairman should not be looked upon merely as a politician but also as a person with business background.

"He understands business although he is no longer involved in business," he said. Jamaludin was the former executive vice-president of EPE Power.

Asked about a replacement for the post of chief executive officer and president, Dr Mahathir said, "If there is no replacement, then we will have to scout for a candidate."

However, the government has yet to identify a suitable candidate for the posts nor has it fixed a timeframe for the posts to be filled as there was already someone standing in.

Datuk Fuad Jaafar, formerly executive director and senior vice-president (energy supply) of Tenaga, was appointed yesterday as acting president and chief executive officer by Tenaga Nasional's board of directors. -- BERNAMA

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