

29/07/2000

LADA GM takes over as Customs and Excise chief

LANGKAWI, Fri. - The outgoing general manager of Langkawi Development Authority, Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib, who takes over as Director-General of the Customs and Excise Department next week, has described his promotion as a surprise.

"I just received my letter of appointment and this was unexpected," he said in a telephone interview from Kuala Lumpur.

Despite talk of his new appointment over the past three weeks, Halil had declined to be interviewed by the media on his new post pending official notification.

Halil said his appointment as head of the Customs was not something "unusual" as LADA and Customs come under the purview of the Finance Ministry.

Nevertheless, he said he needed guidance from the Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, the Chief Secretary to the Government and Finance Ministry secretary-general and others to carry out his new duties.

Halil has been at the helm of LADA since it was set up in 1990 to spearhead the development of Langkawi.

"I started in LADA and it is gratifying to have been a part of the phenomenal growth of Langkawi as an international tourist resort." He added that this was made possible by the guidance and vision of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The modest Halil said what was achieved by LADA so far has "all been part of my duties as expected from a government servant."

He said this would continue to be his philosophy as a government servant carrying out his duties.

Under Halil, LADA was responsible for ensuring the required infrastructure for the growth of the island and attract investors, both local and from overseas.

(END)