

07 DEC 2000

Senate-Michael

MICHAEL CHEN APPOINTED SENATE PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Michael Chen was today appointed President of the Dewan Negara, the Upper House of Parliament, succeeding Tan Sri Mohamed Ya'acob.

Chen, 68, the former Deputy Dewan Negara President, was proposed for the post of Senate President by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and seconded by Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu.

As soon as the Senate began today's proceedings, the Dewan Negara Secretary Datuk Abdullah Abdul Wahab announced that the House had received only one name from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to be proposed as Dewan Negara President under Article 56 of the Federal Constitution.

As such, Chen is duly appointed President of the Dewan Negara under Regulation 2 (3) of the House Standing Orders.

Born in Chenderiang, Perak, Chen is a barrister having graduated from Lincoln's Inn in 1961.

Senators thumped the desk in congratulations soon after the announcement.

Chen has wide experience in government having served as Parliamentary Secretary from 1964 to 1969, Special Functions Minister (1973-1974), Housing, Local Government and Rural Development Minister (1974-1979) and Chairman of the Port of Klang Authority.

Chen, whose term of Senator ends in April 2003 then donned the ceremonial robes of the Senate President and took his oath.

The new Senate President expressed his thanks to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, the Prime Minister and the Government for trusting him with the high post.

He pledged to discharge his duties and responsibilities without fear or favour and hoped Senators would cooperate to ensure smooth proceedings in the House.

Mohamed who has served two terms as Senator from 1996 to 1999 and extended to 2002 went back to his seat as a Senator.

--BERNAMA

AKT MNY AAM