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Dusuki-Appointment

PM WANTS MALAYS TO BE EXEMPLARY MUSLIMS, SAYS DUSUKI

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Dusuki Ahmad, who was appointed political secretary to the Prime Minister today, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants the Malays to be a model to other Muslims.

He said the Prime Minister hoped that Malays would make more efforts to fulfil the demands of Islam and uphold the truth.

"It is meaningless to talk about Islam being a good religion if its followers are weak and backward," he said.

"We want to show the people that by embracing Islam, the weak will become strong, the ignorant become knowledgeable, and the poor become rich," he told Bernama when contacted at his house in Petaling Jaya this afternoon.

Dusuki, 56, a former Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary, takes up the latest appointment succeeding Senator Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin who is now Deputy Education Minister.

Dusuki, who holds a Syariah master's degree from Al-Azhar University, said efforts to enhance the status of Malays as Muslims formed the core of Dr Mahathir's struggle.

"On that basis, I gladly accepted his offer to help him in this matter, more so when current developments make me feel obliged to join in the struggle to uphold the truth," Dusuki said.

Dusuki thanked the Prime Minister for giving him the trust to be his political secretary.

"The post certainly offers me opportunities to help the party and country in tackling problems now and in the future. I can truly feel Dr Mahathir's sincerity in wanting to ensure that Islam is not only the true religion but also one that can develop the race and country," he said.

Dusuki said although he lost in the 1990 general election, he had continued to be a delegate at every Umno general assembly.

Umno was a party that could not be separated from the Malays and Islam, he said.

-- BERNAMA

AU YBY