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Halim-EPF

ABDUL HALIM KEEPS 'EM GUESSING ON NEW APPOINTMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali is keeping mum on speculation that he will be taking over the post of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Executive Chairman.

He said, "there had been some indication" regarding the matter but refused to say anything further.

"I cannot say anything more except to ask you to wait for the announcement (by the government)," he told reporters after delivering a keynote address at the 2001 Conference on Leading and Managing Strategic Change organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) here, today.

Pressed when the announcement would be made, Abdul Halim said he did not know as it "is left very much to the government."

It has emerged that Abdul Halim is tipped to assume the top job at EPF following the retirement of Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, which comes into effect on Jan 31 as announced by the Finance Ministry yesterday.

It was reported that he requested to retire due to family matters.

This development coincided with a separate announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that Public Service Department Director-General Tan Sri Samsudin Osman had been appointed the new Chief Secretary to the Government, taking over from Abdul Halim.

However, Dr Mahathir did not specify when Samsudin would assume his new position.

When asked whether he would accept the EPF appointment, Abdul Halim said: "Well, I will have to consider it when I am officially informed about it."

He was appointed Chief Secretary to the Government on Sept 17, 1996. His contract was first extended in 1998 and again last year. He said his second one-year contract ends on July 14.

Abdul Halim commended the decision to appoint Samsudin to succeed him, describing his successor as a man with a high-level of experience and capability.

-- BERNAMA

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