

07/09/2001

Adnan to head Court of Appeal

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Tan Sri Wan Adnan Ismail is the new Court of Appeal president, filling the post which had been left vacant for almost six months since the retirement of Tan Sri Lamin Mohd Yunus.

Wan Adnan, 64, had been the acting president for the last six months while also fulfilling his duties as Chief Judge of the High Court of Malaya.

The new Chief Judge is Datuk Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim, 59.

Both their appointments are with effect from Sept 1. They took their oath of office and loyalty today before Chief Justice Tan Sri Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah, Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Tan Sri Steve Shim and High Court judge Datuk Faiza Tamby Chik.

Dzaiddin told reporters later that the Conference of Rulers had consented to the appointments by a circular resolution as the matter was not on the agenda of their last meeting in July.

Asked if he submitted only one name for each post, he confirmed that he had sent only these two names and they were accepted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

His criteria for selection, he said, were "seniority, merit and integrity".

"These are the most important things to me," Dzaiddin added.

Speaking to reporters, Wan Adnan said the judges were pleased to get feedback that the people were regaining their confidence in the judiciary.

"It's for all the judges to play a role in bringing back the confidence. I am sure that this will happen.

"To me, everything that a judge does, he must be mindful of the good name of the judiciary," he said.

On his part, Ahmad Fairuz said he agreed that the judiciary's image had been enhanced, and he would do his best to carry out his tasks according to the Constitution and the law.

Wan Adnan was born on July 2, 1937 in Kemaman. He had served in the Terengganu civil service before becoming a magistrate, Sessions Court president and deputy public prosecutor in the State.

He later ran his own law practice before joining politics and winning a seat in the Terengganu State Legislative Assembly.

Wan Adnan was an Exco member from 1974 to 1986, before becoming a High Court judge in 1988.

He was elevated to the Federal Court in 1994.

He is married with three children.

Ahmad Fairuz was born on Nov 1, 1941 in Alor Star and began his career as a magistrate before becoming a Sessions Court president, deputy public prosecutor, senior assistant registrar and state legal adviser.

He became a Judicial Commissioner in 1988 and a High Court judge in 1990.

Ahmad Fairuz was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 1995 and the Federal Court in 2000.

He is married with two children.

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