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MITI-RETIRE

ASMAT RETIRES AS MITI SEC-GEN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) outgoing secretary-general, Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin today bade farewell after having served the ministry for almost 35 years.

Asmat, who turned 57 tomorrow, had joined the Ministry in February 1966 and had served under nine trade ministers including Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The now vacant post will be filled by current deputy secretary-general Abdul Razak Ramli.

MITI minister, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz in her speech at the Ministry's Hari Raya gathering which was also held in conjunction with Asmat's farewell, said Asmat had left a precedence which should be emulated by others.

She said Asmat had been involved in formulating many of the policies that had done much good for the country, especially in bringing Malaysia out of the financial crisis.

Asmat, whose first job in the Ministry was as assistant controller of trade, said he loved working for the ministry in both the good and bad times.

He said MITI is an exciting ministry to be in as it had contributed a lot to the country's development.

On what he would be doing upon his retirement, Asmat said he wanted a good rest. As to whether he would be joining the private sector, he said he had received offers from several companies but had yet to make a decision.

Meanwhile Abdul Razak said Asmat, having been long in the ministry was instrumental in shaping the team (in MITI) and that he was lucky to inherit that from Asmat.

Razak first joined MITI in 1985 as assistant director of multilateral trade negotiations. -- BERNAMA

SHO KTC