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Ex-Bank Negara governor appointed PM's adviser

FORMER Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman has been appointed adviser to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

According to Bloomberg, Ali's appointment was effective yesterday.

"I started work today... I will look into quite a number of things, it's up to the Prime Minister," he was quoted as saying by the financial news wire.

Ali's appointment is the second such advisory position created by Dr Mahathir. Last May, Dr Mahathir named an ex-central banker Nor Mohamed Yakcop as his adviser on finance-related matters.

Previously, Penang born Ali, 60, was the director-general of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in the Prime Minister's Department before he was appointed as the central bank governor in September 1998. He retired from Bank Negara last May.

Ali joined the civil service in 1965, serving in two of the Government's most important departments - the Treasury and the EPU. He served five years at the Treasury, holding the posts of secretary of the economic division and head of the tax division.

He participated and led a team on all of Malaysia's Five-Year Plans which included the two long-term Outline Perspective Plans and two Industrial Master Plans.

A graduate of Universiti Malaya with an honours degree in Economics, Ali obtained a Master's Degree in Economic Development at Wisconsin University in the US. He was conferred the Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law by the University of Northumbria, Newcastle in Britain in 1998.

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