

18 JAN 2001

Abdullah-Hamid

EX-MINISTER HAMID APPOINTED PM'S RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS ADVISER

PENANG, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, who resigned from the Cabinet on Monday, has been appointed as religious affairs adviser to the Prime Minister

Confirming this here today, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Dr Abdul Hamid received his appointment letter from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

"I received information that he has accepted the appointment. He gets all the benefits that he has been receiving as a minister," Abdullah, who is Umno deputy president, told reporters after chairing a Penang Umno meeting.

He said Dr Abdul Hamid's appointment took effect immediately as he was not required to be sworn in for the post.

Asked if Dr Abdul Hamid had resigned from the Cabinet because he was getting this new post, Abdullah said: "He didn't tell me whether this is the reason."

What was important, he added, was that Dr Abdul Hamid had been given an important post that required a lot of time and attention.

Dr Abdul Hamid resigned as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department on Monday, and is replaced by Department of Islamic Advancement (Jakim) director-general Brig-Jen (Rtd) Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin.

-- BERNAMA

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