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Halim to decide on EPF post only after it's offered

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, today said he had received several indications that he would be appointed the new Employees' Provident Fund executive chairman.

However, he said he would only give serious consideration as to whether he should take up the position only after he is officially informed of it.

"There had been lots of media reports and speculation on my appointment as the new EPF executive chairman but I will wait for an official announcement before making any decision," he said after opening a conference on Leading and Managing Strategic Change organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute here.

Yesterday, the Finance Ministry announced the retirement of Tan Sri Dr Sallehuddin Mohamed as the EPF's executive chairman.

A ministry statement said Sallehuddin's retirement would come into effect on Jan 31.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also announced yesterday that Public Services Department director-general Tan Sri Samsudin Osman had been appointed the new Chief Secretary.

However, Dr Mahathir did not specify when Samsudin would assume his new position, which would also make him Cabinet Secretary.

Halim Ali who was appointed Chief Secretary on Sept 17, 1996, had his contract first extended in 1998, and again last year. His second extension ends on July 14 this year.

On Samsudin's appointment, Halim Ali said he had vast experience in the civil service and was a very good choice for the position.

Asked which areas of the civil service Samsudin should pay immediate attention to upon assuming his new position, Halim Ali said the necessary instructions would be given by the Prime Minister in due time.

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