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Samsudin appointed Chief Secretary

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Samsudin Osman has been appointed Chief Secretary to the Government, taking over from Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

The announcement was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir in Putrajaya today.

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

"We'll later appoint another person to take Samsudin's place," Bernama reported Dr Mahathir as saying after attending a Hari Raya gathering organised by the Prime Minister's office here.

Contacted later by Bernama, Samsudin said he was grateful for the trust placed in him.

"I will work as hard as I can to make a success of this position as expected by the Government."

Samsudin, 53, was appointed Home Ministry secretary-general on Sept 8, 1996, before being appointed Public Service Department director-general on Dec 15 1998.

He has also been Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry secretary-general, the Federal Secretary for Sabah and chairman of the Sabah State security committee.

Samsudin holds a Masters in Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University in the United States.

In another development, the Finance Ministry announced the retirement of Tan Sri Dr Sallehuddin Mohamed as Employees' Provident Fund executive chairman.

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

Sallehuddin has held the position of EPF board chairman since May 26, 1990, EPF board chairman and general manager since June 1, 1991, and EPF executive chairman since June 1, 1994.

The statement said Sallehuddin requested to retire due to family matters.

It went on to express Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin's and the Finance Ministry's gratitude for his dedicated service.

Meanwhile, Cuepacs president N. Siva Subramaniam welcomed Samsudin's appointment.

He said Samsudin was known for his knowledge, wisdom and modesty.

"I am confident that our new Chief Secretary will continue to bring new spirit to serve and unite the civil service," he told Bernama.

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