

17 JAN 2001

Mahathir-Samsudin

SAMSUDIN OSMAN IS NEW CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Public Service Director-General Tan Sri Samsudin Osman has been appointed the new Chief Secretary to the Government, taking over from Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who announced the appointment today, however did not say when Samsudin will assume duty as the country's top civil servant.

"We'll later appoint another person to take over Samsudin's place," Dr Mahathir told reporters after attending a Hari Raya gathering organised by the Prime Minister's Office here.

As the Chief Secretary, Samsudin will also act as the Cabinet secretary.

When Bernama contacted him at home in the evening, Samsudin said: "I'm grateful to God and thank the prime minister and the Malaysian government for the confidence in me to hold the highest post in the civil service.

"I shall do my utmost to discharge my duties and meet the government's expectations," he said.

Samsudin was appointed Public Service Director-General on Dec 15, 1998. Prior to that, he was Home Ministry secretary-general, a post he held since Sept 8, 1996.

He had also held senior positions as Secretary-General of the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry, the Federal Secretary for Sabah and chairman of the Sabah state security committee.

Samsudin, 53, holds a Masters in Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University of the United States.

He joined the Administrative and Diplomatic Service as an assistant secretary in the Public Service Department in 1969.

Abdul Halim, on the other hand, was appointed Chief Secretary to the Government on Sept 17, 1996. His contract as Chief Secretary was first extended in 1998 and again last year.

It was reported today that Abdul Halim was likely to be appointed Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) executive chairman.

The Finance Ministry in a statement today announced that EPF executive chairman Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, who assumed the post 10 years ago, will retire on Jan 31 this year.

-- BERNAMA

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