

17 JAN 2001

Cabinet-Appointment

TWO NEW MINISTERS NAMED, ONE NEW MINISTRY CREATED

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has appointed two new Ministers and created a new ministry specifically to handle women's affairs.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil has not only been promoted to a minister but also gets to head the new Women's Affairs Ministry.

Perceived by many as a hands-on person who is not shy to speak her mind, Shahrizat, 47, the MP for Lembah Pantai, obtained her LLB (Hons) from Universiti Malaya in 1977 and 18 years later became Parliamentary Secretary to the Youth and Sports Ministry.

Shahrizat, the Wanita Umno deputy chief, was made Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in December 1999.

The Penang-born Shahrizat joined Umno in 1981 and became the head of Wanita Umno Kepong division in 1989, a post she still holds. She was appointed vice-chairman of Federal Territory Wanita Umno in 1994.

The other new face in the Cabinet is Malaysian Islamic Advancement Department (Jakim) Director-General Brig Jen (Rtd) Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, who has been made Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

The Prime Minister's Office announced their appointments and those of two deputy ministers and one parliamentary secretary in a statement today.

Brig Jen Abdul Hamid is expected to be given the Islamic affairs portfolio previously held by Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, who resigned as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department last Jan 15.

Brig Jen Abdul Hamid was appointed Director of the Armed Forces Religious Corps (Kagat) in 1986 and in July 1995 he was appointed to head Jakim which was originally known as Islamic Affairs Department.

He was once a trustee of the Malaysian Islamic Economic Development Foundation (YPEIM).

He holds a diploma in education from Kolej Islam Malaya and an M.A in Islamic Law from Al-Azhar University in Egypt.

The two new deputy ministers are Umno executive secretary Senator Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, who has been made Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, and PPP president Senator Datuk M.Kayveas, who has been appointed Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister.

Veteran journalist and Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Berhad deputy executive chairman Senator Datuk Zainuddin Maidin has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Information Ministry.

Tengku Adnan, 50, who holds a degree in Business Administration, began his political career in the early 1980s. He was the information chief of the Kampung Bakti Umno branch in Seputeh from 1984 until 1986.

In 1985, he became the deputy head of the Seputeh Umno division.

In 1988, he became the Umno Youth treasurer while his other appointments in the same year included national Umno Youth International Bureau deputy chairman and Umno Youth Finance Bureau head.

He was appointed Umno executive secretary by Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, in 1999.

Kayveas, 46, will fill the Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister's post which was vacated by Datuk Azmi Khalid when he was promoted to Rural Development Minister earlier. The other Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister is Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui.

Kayveas retained the PPP president's post uncontested for a third term

last October. He was first elected to the post in 1993.

In 1999, Kayveas was appointed a member of the National Economic Consultative Council (NECC) II and he sits in its poverty eradication committee.

Kayveas, who runs his own legal firm Blanche and Kayveas, was sworn in as Senator last December.

Zainuddin takes over the post which was vacated by Datuk Shafie Apdal when he was promoted to Deputy Defence Minister earlier.

Zainuddin, 61, was Utusan Malaysia Editor before he became Group Editor-in-Chief from 1982 to 1992.

Zainuddin, better known as "Zam", relinquished the post following a controversy over the Bahasa Malaysia issue and the political crisis in 1992, and was then made Editorial Department adviser for two years.

At that time he stayed in London and wrote a book entitled "Mahathir Di Sebalik Tabir".

He was appointed a member of the Senate in 1998 and in August the same year he was made Utusan Group deputy executive chairman.

According to the statement from the Prime Minister's Office, Shahrizat, Brig Jen Abdul Hamid, Tengku Adnan and Kayveas would take their oath of office before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah at Istana Negara on Jan 30.

Zainuddin will take his oath as parliamentary secretary before Dr Mahathir on Jan 30 at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

The two-page statement said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong had been informed by the prime minister on the appointment of members of the administration involving ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretary.

This follows the resignation of Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department last Jan 15, the statement said.

The statement said Brig Jen Abdul Hamid would first be made a Senator before being appointed minister.

His appointment has been consented to by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the statement said.

-- BERNAMA
ES MAM YBY