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Umno-Cabinet  
UMNO SAYS NEW LINE-UP PROVIDES AVENUE FOR NEW IDEAS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Yesterday's appointment of two new ministers, two deputy ministers and a parliamentary secretary underscored determination to inject new ideas in several sectors of the government administration, according to Umno on-line.

It reasoned that the creation of the Women's Affairs Ministry and the promotion of Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to full minister to head it was a crucial step towards improving the lot of Malaysian women.

"This speaks of the government's desire to see women making up 30 per cent of the country's future policy-makers and also its recognition of their immense contribution to the nation," said Umno on-line, the party's cyber-mouthpiece which posts news and news analyses for party members.

Umno on-line viewed the appointment of Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin as the new Minister in the Prime Minister's Department as a move to sustain continuity of stewardship in matters of Islamic administration.

"This is crucial as the government is standardising administration of Islamic affairs in the states," it said. Abdul Hamid succeeded Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman who resigned last week.

It also viewed Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor's appointment as Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department as a recognition of his organisational capabilities especially in running the Umno headquarters. He is Umno executive secretary.

"He may be tasked with special functions relating to the federal territory and remunerations," Umno on-line speculated.

Senator Datuk Zainuddin Maidin's vast experience in journalism would provide fresh input of ideas now that he is a member of the administration as the new Parliamentary Secretary of the Information Ministry, it said.

"The appointment of the former editor-in-chief of the Utusan group, who is very critical of foreign culture and poor quality television will be a boon to development in the entertainment world," the Umno on-line analysis said.

Meanwhile, in KUALA TERENGGANU, Umno Youth vice chief Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir expressed hope that the two new ministers, Shahrizat in particular, would help the government in making decisions affecting their target groups.

"It is hoped that Shahrizat could meet the aspirations of women who have been fighting for their rights and who have been all along with the government in uplifting their status," he told reporters after meeting the Terengganu Umno Youth executive committee today.

He said Umno Youth also hoped Zainal Abidin would make the most of all his experience to further consolidate the country's Islamic institution.

As for Kayveas, Abdul Aziz described his appointment as the government's recognition of the role of the People's Progressive Party.

In KUANTAN, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said the new members of the administration appointed yesterday would add cohesion to the government line-up led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Creating a special ministry to handle women's affairs would help solve a host of women-related problems, he said.

"Being a vital component of society, it is very appropriate that women, being mother and teacher are given due attention through a ministry specially created for them," he told reporters after opening a state-level discourse on K-economy today.

-- BERNAMA

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