

30 JAN 2001
Zainuddin-Oath
ZAINUDDIN TAKES HIS OATH OF OFFICE

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Senator Datuk Zainuddin Maidin was today sworn in as the Information Ministry's parliamentary secretary.

He took his oath of office before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office, here.

Present at the swearing-in ceremony was Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

Zainuddin's appointment was announced by the prime minister on Jan 17.

Speaking to reporters later, Zainuddin said that he would use his 40 years' experience in journalism to further enhance the society's confidence in the media especially the government media.

"I hope to carry out full responsibility with the support of the Information Ministry staff to turn RTM into the nation's main source of information," he said.

Zainuddin, who did not expect to change course at 61, thanked the prime minister for the trust placed in him.

"In aspects where the Information Minister (Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob) has made plans for improvement, I will assist him.

"My experience is in journalism so therefore a journalist can have a look in terms of shortcomings in aspects of news and information."

"God willing, with all the steps laid out, RTM will be restored as the nation's main source of news," he said.

Following the appointment, Zainuddin announced his resignation as deputy executive chairman of Utusan Melayu (M) Berhad and also from the board of directors of Utusan Melayu.

Zainuddin was editor-in-chief of the Utusan Group from 1982-1992 and later became adviser to its Editorial Department for two years.

He was appointed a senator in 1998 and appointed deputy executive chairman of the Utusan Group in August the same year.

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