

Dr M and Cabinet sign loyalty pledge

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By ZULKIFLI ABD RAHMAN

PUTRAJAYA: Members of the Government signed the letter of undertaking for loyalty and good conduct with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad leading the way in separate ceremonies yesterday.

Dr Mahathir signed the pledge before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara in the morning and later in the afternoon he witnessed his Cabinet, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries signing the pledge at the Prime Minister's Department.

His deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, signed his pledge before handing it over to Dr Mahathir.

This was followed by group signing led by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik for the ministers, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus for deputy ministers, parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Senator Khamsiah Yeop for parliamentary secretaries and the Prime Minister's political secretary Datuk Johari Baharom for political secretaries and administrative staff.

They also handed over the signed documents to Dr Mahathir.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said the pledge-signing ceremony was not an oath-taking ceremony since those present had earlier taken their oaths when they became ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

He added that the signatories should be honest and willing to carry out their pledges which they made when they joined the Government.

"The signing of the loyalty pledge was not because we did not carry out our duties diligently, but by signing the pledge, it would help us to strengthen our work performance and the commitment of our duties to the people.

"I have been to many parts of the world and have studied the administrative work of various governments, and I find that our methods are good because we believe in a hands-on approach in government administration.

"We are involved directly in the implementation of the government's policies for the country, which helped the country to achieve greater success, rather than letting others do our jobs," he said.

The Government has requested the 900,000 government employees to pledge their allegiance to the King and the Government by signing the letter of undertaking of good conduct.