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Appointments-Reaction

DR JAMALUDDIN'S APPOINTMENT THE RIGHT DECISION, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- The appointment of Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis as Finance Minister II is the right choice, MIC president and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

"The appointment shows that the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has again made the right choice. Jamaluddin is a very experienced man in management and we wish him well," he told Bernama in a telephone interview from the United States.

"He is also experienced in matters pertaining to finance and economy," he said. Dr Mahathir is the Finance Minister.

Samy Vellu also said that the promotion of Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and Datuk Zainuddin Maidin as Deputy Information Minister was a step in the right direction.

"The two leaders have proven to Malaysians that they are capable of shouldering the huge responsibility entrusted on them and now it is time for them to go on to work harder," he added.

Meanwhile, the People's Progressive Party president, senator Datuk M. Kayveas, who is Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister, said the appointments today showed that the government was serious in giving its best to the people.

"Those appointed are credible leaders who work for the people... Jamaluddin has proven his mettle and it is only good that he provides the back-up for Dr Mahathir," he said.

On the other two appointments, he said both leaders deserved the promotion, especially with their excellent performance as deputy minister and parliamentary secretary respectively.

"Tengku Adnan performed very well in his tenure as Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department while Datuk Zainuddin brought out new ideas as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Information Ministry," he added.

In PEKAN, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak described Dr Jamaluddin's appointment as apt.

"With his experience and knowledge as an entrepreneur and as Tenaga Nasional Berhad chairman, he has proven his ability to help the prime minister as the First Finance Minister," he said after launching the assembly of the ACV300 armoured car at the Deftech plant.

The armoured car is one of 211 units bought from FNSS Defence Systems of Turkey for the use of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar described Dr Jamaluddin's appointment as Second Finance Minister as a continuity to the country's system of governance.

He said Dr Jamaluddin is seen as the second echelon leader in the country's administration who is capable of mooting constructive ideas to steer the country's financial institutions to greater heights.

Proactive and hardworking individuals like Dr Jamaluddin must work alongside Dr Mahathir more closely to bring about tangible results to the country, he said.

"I believe this appointment is based on Dr Mahathir's view and his ability to think for the country's interests.

"For an important job such as this, it needs compatibility and I believe Dr Jamaluddin has that compatibility because he is from the younger generation and sits in the Umno supreme council," he told reporters after

breaking the fast at his residence tonight.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob described Dr Jamaluddin, Tengku Adnan and Zainuddin as deserving cases and was confident they would receive the trust and confidence of all groups.

He said the experience Dr Jamaluddin had made him the most suitable candidate to help Dr Mahathir to manage the Finance Ministry.

"I am also proud my Executive Secretary Tengku Adnan has been promoted to full Minister while Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zam to Deputy Minister," he said.

Asked on the rationale to have two Deputy Information Ministers, Khalil, who is also Umno secretary-general, said it was normal as one time the ministry had two deputy ministers.

He said he believed another deputy minister was appointed because of the increasing workload at the ministry, especially on efforts to enhance news and information exchange cooperation with foreign countries under the South-South Information Gateway and Smart News Network International.

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