

20/11/2002

Jamaludin is Finance Minister II (HL)

Firdaus Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Member of Parliament for Rompin Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis has been appointed Finance Minister II, the Prime Minister's office announced today.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor has been promoted to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, while Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin has been elevated to Deputy Minister in the same ministry.

In a statement issued this afternoon, the Prime Minister's Office said Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin had consented to the appointments.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will remain as Finance Minister. With the appointment of Zainuddin, there will now be two Deputy Ministers in the Information Ministry. The other Deputy Minister is Datuk Khalid Yunus.

The three will take their oath of office before the King at Istana Negara on Thursday.

"Their appointments will take effect with the taking of oath," the statement said.

Jamaludin, in a statement issued tonight, thanked the Prime Minister for the appointment.

"I am very touched by this appointment and the trust placed on me."

He promised to discharge his responsibilities to the best of his abilities to help Dr Mahathir as Finance Minister.

He added he hoped to get the cooperation from all quarters in carrying out his duties.

It is not known as to when Jamaludin will relinquish his current position at Tenaga Nasional Bhd.

Jamaludin, who is president of the Backbencher's Club, was born in Pekan, Pahang, on May 25, 1951.

An electrical engineer by training, he graduated with an honours degree from the University of Manchester and later obtained his Master of Science from the University of Manitoba in Canada.

In 1980, Jamaludin received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from McGill University in Canada and began climbing the political ladder when he was elected Kampung Mengkasar Umno Branch Youth head.

Four years later, he was elected deputy head of the Pekan Division Umno Youth movement.

In 1988, he was elected deputy head of the Pahang Umno Youth and later became a member of the Umno Youth Exco.

Two years later, he was elected to the Umno Supreme Council, ranking eighth among 63 contenders for the 25 positions.

He was elected MP for Rompin in 1990, a position he still holds. Jamaludin is known for his entrepreneurship, having founded and led several companies, including J & A Associates Sdn Bhd and EPE Power Corporation Berhad.

Appointed chairman of Tenaga Nasional in 2000, his two-year term which expired this year was extended by another two.

Tengku Adnan, who was appointed Senator on Dec 13, 2000, was made Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department a month later.

Born on Dec 12, 1950, he graduated from the Vanto Academy before pursuing a degree in Business Administration at the Mara Institute of

Technology (ITM).

On the corporate scene, Tengku Adnan started as general manager of Carpet International Berhad in 1972 before setting up his own company, Lengkuas Holdings.

Other prominent positions which he has held include the post of chairman, Danish Communication Sdn Berhad, chairman and director, Far East Asset Berhad, and director of Berjaya Industrial Berhad.

In 1996, he was appointed executive director of Berjaya Group Berhad.

Active in politics since the early 70s, Tengku Adnan was elected Seputeh Umno branch head in 1981 and became its Youth chief three years later.

In 1989, he became treasurer of the national Umno Youth movement.

Four years later, he was elected Umno Supreme Council member and appointed the party's executive secretary in 1999.

Zainuddin began his journalistic career as a freelance reporter for Warta Negara and rose to become editor-in-chief of Utusan Malaysia.

In 1994, Zainuddin, fondly known among colleagues as "Zam", was made executive chairman of Utusan Publications & Distributions Sdn Bhd.

Between July 21, 1998 and Jan 30, 2001, he was group deputy executive chairman Utusan Melayu (M) Bhd.

He was a senator between 1998 and 2001 and later reappointed to the Upper House in 2001.

Zainuddin, who sits on several Umno bureaus and committees, was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Information Ministry in 2001.

He still writes a column for Utusan Malaysia.

Commenting on his promotion, Zainuddin said it was unexpected as he was still "new" in his job as Parliamentary Secretary.

Thanking Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for trusting him to shoulder heavier responsibilities, Zainuddin said his 40 years' experience as a journalist had helped him in discharging his duties at the Information Ministry.