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Jamaludin to strengthen ties among ministry staff

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs. - Newly-appointed Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis today said one of his priorities is to strengthen ties and co-operation among ministry staff.

He said a strong and efficient Treasury was vital, especially in meeting the challenges of globalisation.

Jamaludin said the importance of Treasury staff working as a team was conveyed to him by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during their meeting at the PM's Department after he was sworn in.

"Dr Mahathir stressed the need to strengthen ties among Treasury staff," he said at his first Press conference as a Minister at the Ministry. Jamaludin said Dr Mahathir also briefed him on his duties.

Asked whether the PM had given him any specific task to fulfil, the former Tenaga Nasional chairman replied: "The focus is to assist the Finance Minister."

Jamaludin was received by Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy, Parliamentary Secretary Hashim Ismail, Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Samsudin Hitam and senior officials.

Addressing the staff, Jamaludin said the task of running the country's finances would not be successful without their full co-operation.

Earlier, Jamaludin and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor took their oath of office before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at Istana Negara.

They also took their pledge of loyalty and secrecy at the ceremony.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin also took a similar oath at the same ceremony.

Their appointments took effect today.

Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Cabinet ministers.

Also present were Chief Justice Tun Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah, Attorney-General Datuk Abdul Gani Patail and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman.