

09 SEP 2002

Parliament-Oath

OTHMAN ABDUL RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Former Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Othman Abdul returned to Parliament today after having won the Pendang seat in a by-election on July 18.

Othman, 51, was sworn in as a member of the Dewan Rakyat before Speaker Tun Dr Mohamed Zahir Ismail just before the House began its proceedings for today.

He then took his seat next to the MP for Kuala Selangor Mohamed Sayuti Said.

Mohamed Zahir expressed the hope that Othman would continue with his excellent service to Parliament and the nation.

The Speaker also announced that the PAS member for Marang Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had the support of the majority of the Opposition MPs for being appointed Opposition Leader.

He succeeds Datuk Fadzil Noor who died on June 23.

The Dewan Rakyat has 193 members of whom 152 are from the Barisan Nasional, 26 from PAS, 10 from the DAP and five from Parti Keadilan.

Mohamed Zahir also granted leave of absence from this session to Datuk Shahnon Ahmad (PAS-Sik).

The Dewan Rakyat will sit for 38 days from today till Nov 12 while the Dewan Negara from Nov 11 till 28.

The Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will table the Budget for next year on Sept 20.

-- BERNAMA

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