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Pandikar-Football

PANDIKAR AMIN LIKENS POLITICS TO FOOTBALL

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia said he has no regrets about leaving the Cabinet as he likens politics to football, where a player has to stop playing when the referee blows the final whistle.

"Politics is like football. If the referee blows the whistle, we have to stop playing even when we are still full of energy," he said.

The 47-year-old politician said he now considers himself a reserve who is ready to serve the country again if called upon.

"The important thing is not to play rough, especially when we need to be sidelined. Of course, we have to accept that we should sit on the bench for the time being.

"If the need arises, no need to convince (me). Next time just give a signal; I shall always be there, Sir!" he said at a luncheon hosted by the Cabinet today to fete him.

Pandikar Amin had to relinquish his post following the expiry of his term as a Senator on May 19. He has served the maximum two terms as a Senator from 1987 to 1989 and from 1999 to 2002.

He recalled that 36 months ago when he was asked to serve at the federal level, he was a bit reluctant.

However, he now felt very lucky to have had the opportunity to serve in the Cabinet and gained valuable experience.

"Of course, like the prime minister said, I will miss all those things that I have shared with you for the past three years," he said in thanking Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for giving him the trust to be a minister.

Speaking to reporters later, Pandikar Amin said he would use all his experience to strengthen unity among the various races.

Pandikar Amin said he would continue to be active in politics and would concentrate his services in his area, Kota Belud.

"I will play the role of an ordinary Umno member. The important thing is to enhance unity at all levels," said Pandikar Amin, who formed Akar in 1989 but joined Umno after the former was dissolved last year.

-- BERNAMA

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