

13 MAY 2002

Pandikar-Minister

PANDIKAR AMIN'S MINISTERIAL DUTIES END ON SUNDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia will complete his duties as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department on May 19 when his term as member of the Dewan Negara ends, Cabinet Secretary Tan Sri Samsudin Osman said today.

Samsudin, who is also the Chief Secretary to the Government, said the services of Pandikar Amin as a Senator could not be extended as he had already served the maximum two terms.

"Article 45(3A) of the Federal Constitution limits the term of a Senator to two terms," he said in a statement.

Pandikar Amin, 47, served his first term as Senator from 1987 till 1989 while his second term began on May 20, 1999 and will end on May 19 this year.

He was appointed Minister on May 25, 1999 and reappointed on Dec 14 of the same year when the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, announced his Cabinet after the Nov 29 General Election.

"The Government expresses its highest appreciation to the Honourable Senator Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia for his services as a Minister. He has contributed much to the country and the Government," Samsudin said.

Pandikar Amin began his government career as a Legal Adviser to the Sabah Forest Department in 1980 and served in that position until 1981. He also served as Sabah State Assembly Speaker and State Minister of Finance between 1994 and 1999.

He joined the United Sabah National Organisation (Usno) in 1982 before setting up his own party called "Bersih" and later joined the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) in 1986.

Pandikar Amin then founded Akar Bersatu in 1989 and then officially dissolved it last year and after that all its members joined Umno.

-- BERNAMA

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