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Abdullah-Ministers

ABDULLAH KNOWS ABOUT DR MAHATHIR'S PLAN TO APPOINT SECOND FINANCE MINISTER

KEPALA BATAS, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that he knew about Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's plan to appoint two new ministers and a deputy minister.

Dr Mahathir told him of his intention to appoint a second finance minister but said he had to think of a suitable candidate for the job, the deputy prime minister told reporters after breaking fast at the Permatang Manggis surau near here.

In fact, the prime minister spoke about the matter a long time ago, he said, adding that he agreed with Dr Mahathir's decision not only to fill the post of second finance minister but also other cabinet posts.

"Recently, after he made the decision, he again spoke to me and told me that he had decided," Abdullah said.

The Prime Minister's office announced on Tuesday the appointment of Rompin MP Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis as Second Finance Ministers and the promotion of Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tengku Datuk Adnan Tengku Mansor to full minister and Information Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin to Deputy Minister.

However, certain parties claimed that the prime minister had made a surprise announcement without discussing the matter with Abdullah.

Abdullah explained that the appointment of a minister or deputy minister was the prerogative of the prime minister.

"Everyone knows this and in this matter (appointment of second finance minister) the prime minister did speak to me about his intention," he said.

Dr Jamaluddin, Tengku Adnan and Zainuddin took their oath of office before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara today.

Their appointments are effective today.

-- BERNAMA

AHM JK