

24 JUN 2003

Mastika-Reaction

MASTIKA'S APPOINTMENT IS TIMELY, SAYS SHAHRIZAT

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- The appointment of Arau Member of Parliament Datuk Mastika Junaidah Husin as Parliamentary Secretary of the Women and Family Development Ministry (KPWK) is timely as it would enhance the ministry's performance.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, in a press statement today, said since its inception more than two years ago, the ministry never had a Parliamentary Secretary.

She also thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Mastika's appointment.

"I am very happy with the appointment of Datuk Mastika as Parliamentary Secretary of KPWK. She has wide experience as a leader. She is also a politician who has the people's welfare at heart," she said.

She was also confident that Mastika's appointment would make the ministry stronger in championing issues concerning women and family development.

Shahrizat also congratulated Deputy Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen who was appointed Deputy Finance Minister II succeeding Datuk Chan Kong Choy.

"I believe Datuk Ng Yen Yen will perform her duties well and will focus on women's needs, especially the needs of women entrepreneurs," she said.

Chan was appointed Transport Minister succeeding Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who had resigned.

The cabinet reshuffle was announced by Dr Mahathir at a media conference at Putrajaya today.

Meanwhile, Mastika Junaidah, 49, thanked Dr Mahathir for the appointment and the trust place on her.

"I did not expect to be appointed with the limited experience that I have," she said commenting on her appointment.

She said she would meet Shahrizat to discuss her role and responsibilities in the ministry.

"I feel there is so much work that needs to be done in the ministry and many programmes that must be implemented especially concerning family matters," she said.

Mastika Junaidah also thanked Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz for his guidance during her eight-month tenure as Chairman of the Malaysian Handicrafts Development Corporation (PKPM).

After graduating from the University of Malaya, Mastika Junaidah had first served as an Assistant District Officer and then as General Manager of Jayadiri Farmers Organisation at Simpang Empat in Perlis.

She had also worked as an agriculture officer with Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA) for 18 years from 1976.

Mastika Junaidah became Perlis Barisan Nasional Member of Parliament (MP) for Arau after beating Abdul Aziz Hanafi (PAS) in the 1999 general election with a majority of 1,586 votes.

In politics, Mastika Junaidah is the Perlis Wanita Umno Chief since 1996 and also chief of the Arau Wanita Umno Division.

Mastika Junaidah is also Chairman of Perlis Women's Consultative Affairs Committee (HAWA).

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