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Abdullah-Cabinet

ABDULLAH CHAIRS FIRST CABINET MEETING IN PUTRAJAYA

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today chaired his first Cabinet meeting after being appointed Prime Minister six days ago.

He made his appearance at the Cabinet Meeting Room on the fourth floor of the Prime Minister's Office at the Perdana Putra Building here at 10am.

The elongated oval-shaped room adorned with heavy draperies and three chandeliers hung low above a huge table is located one floor below Abdullah's office.

He first used the office he had inherited from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday after being sworn in as the nation's fifth Prime Minister on Friday.

While waiting for Abdullah inside the meeting room, the ministers were in a jovial mood as they exchanged banter and jokes among themselves.

At one point, they even broke into the "Happy Birthday" song after International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz hinted loudly that she had just celebrated her birthday.

Rafidah was born on Nov 4 1943 in Selama, Perak.

Earlier, the ministers joined Abdullah for their first group photography session at the lobby of the Prime Minister's Office.

Looking smart in a black suit and red tie, the new Prime Minister was flanked by Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

Also present was Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman.

-- BERNAMA

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