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Ng-Invest

NG REPORTS FOR DUTY AS NEW DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER IN HIGH SPIRIT

PUTRAJAYA, July 1 (Bernama) -- Just like what she used to do at the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry, the new Deputy Finance Minister, Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen, has pledged to continue attracting people to Malaysia -- this time to invest in the country.

"I would like to see how I can contribute, based on my four-year experience in the tourism ministry where I brought tourists in.

"Now I'll bring investments in, bring money in, bring people to buy shares here," the former Deputy Culture, Arts And Tourism Minister told reporters on her first day at work at the Finance Ministry Complex, here, today.

She took her oath-of-office before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara yesterday following a minor cabinet reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on June 24.

Ng, who arrived at her new 11th floor office clad in a striking red kebaya with a Cheongsam collar, said she would focus her attention on China, among others, as she had a good network with the republic.

"I would like to look into the Chinese diaspora. With 1.3 billion Chinese population and 600 million overseas Chinese, they form a great economic power," the Wanita MCA chief said.

This is the first time in more than 20 years that a woman has been appointed deputy finance minister, after Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz (now International Trade and Industry Minister) held the post between 1977 and 1980.

Ng said one of her resolutions was to make Malaysia a financial centre similar to Hong Kong.

"We have all the infrastructure. This is one of the areas where I think I would be able to contribute," she said.

Earlier, Ng, accompanied by former deputy finance minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy (now Transport Minister), met Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis.

"He (Jamaluddin) gave me a lot of advice. I will learn fast all my tasks, the ministry's policies and direction," she said.

More than 60 MCA members and supporters as well as Umno members and folk from her hometown of Raub were present to wish Ng well on her first day.

-- BERNAMA

SHI MAM JK