

30 OCT 2003

Handover-Ceremony

OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF DUTIES AS PM SET FOR AFTERNOON OF OCT 31

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will hand over the Prime Ministership to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on the afternoon of Oct 31.

A spokesman from the Prime Minister's Department told Bernama that guests will gather at the throne room of Istana Negara at 2:30pm.

Dr Mahathir and Abdullah's wives and children will be present among the array of dignitaries including the Cabinet ministers, Mentris Besar, Dewan Negara President and Dewan Rakyat Speaker, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, Defence Forces Chief, the Inspector-General of Police, the Chief Secretary to the Government, Secretaries-General and heads of departments.

Dr Mahathir and Abdullah will arrive separately and are expected to enter the throne room together at 3pm, the spokesman said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail will then enter to witness Abdullah taking his oath and signing the instrument of office.

After a do'a selamat, there will be a photograph session before Abdullah and Dr Mahathir return separately to the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya.

Dr Mahathir is expected to arrive at the Prime Minister's office on the fifth floor at 4:10pm, followed by Abdullah five minutes later, the spokesman said.

They are expected to have a private session together.

Dr Mahathir, who introduced the clock-in system for civil servants within a month after he became prime minister, is expected to punch out at 4:45pm.

Abdullah and Dr Mahathir will then proceed to the Laman Perdana, where their wives will be present, to meet all the Secretaries-General, heads of departments and staff of the Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister's Department.

After that, Dr Mahathir will return to his official residence, Seri Perdana.

Abdullah is expected to arrive at the Prime Minister's Department at 8am on Monday, Nov 3, the spokesman said.

He will be greeted by the Secretaries-General and staff of the Prime Minister's Department and Ministry of Finance.

After punching in at 8:15am, he will begin his duties in his new office, as Malaysia's fifth prime minister.

-- BERNAMA

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