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BESSAR-Zakaria
FORMER PM'S PRESS SEC JOINS BERNAMA SUBSIDIARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab, former press secretary to retired Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has been appointed executive director of Bessar (Bernama Systems and Solutions Advisory Services), a 100 percent Bernama-owned technology-based company.

Zakaria, 46, joined Bernama as a journalist in 1980 and held various positions in the editorial department, including that of bureau chief in Penang from 1985 to 1987, bureau chief in Sarawak from 1987 to 1991, and news editor in the economic service in early 1992.

He was seconded to the Prime Minister's Office in the latter part of 1992, first as assistant press secretary and later press secretary.

A mass communications graduate of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Zakaria had had an illustrious journalistic career, winning several Malaysia Press Institute (MPI) awards in the 1980's.

Bernama in a statement today said Zakaria's good networking will help give so far little-known Bessar a much-needed push to become a major player in the systems and solutions business.

Backed by an experienced technical team which has been handling Bernama's computerised editorial system since 1984, Bessar is bidding for several e-government and e-education projects. -- BERNAMA

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