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Cabinet-Reaction (Opposition)

NEW CABINET LINE-UP DISAPPOINTING, SAYS OPPOSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Despite all-round acceptance for the new Cabinet announced by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad

Badawi, the opposition has described the line-up as "disappointing."

Parti Rakyat Malaysia President Dr Syed Husin Ali said the newly-formed

Cabinet did not show any sign of the Prime Minister's vision to bring changes to the country.

"Besides splitting up several ministries perhaps to increase the number of ministers, the new Cabinet failed to prove that Abdullah has come out of the shadows of his former boss Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said in a statement today.

He also challenged Abdullah to prove within a year that he was not power crazy and was serious in fighting corruption and crime.

"Failing to deliver what he promised will lead the people to think the Prime Minister gave empty promises during campaigning merely to win the election," he said.

DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang welcomed the establishment of the Higher Education Ministry but deplored the retention of ministers whom he claimed have yet to clear their names from corruption or serious allegation of power abuse.

"What's most disappointing not only to the DAP but the 4.4 million voters who voted for the Barisan Nasional and 2.4 million who voted for the opposition, that Abdullah has failed in his first big test in his pledge for a clean, incorruptible and trustworthy government and the BN's manifesto pledge of excellence, glory and distinction," he said.

He said Abdullah's first Cabinet is as flawed as the 2004 general election which gave the unprecedented nine-tenth parliamentary majority mandate to him (Abdullah).

However, Kelantan PAS information chief Takiyuddin Hassan

congratulated  
Datuk Mustapa Mohamed on his appointment as Minister in the Prime  
Minister's Department and Datuk Dr Awang Adek Husin as Deputy Rural  
and  
Regional Development Minister.

He also congratulated Machang MP Sazmi Miah who has been named  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Natural Resources and Environment  
Ministry.

"I hope their appointments will bring benefits to the Kelantan  
people,"  
he said.

It is hoped their appointments would lead to closer ties between  
the  
state and federal governments in line with the federalism system  
practised  
in the country, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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