

17 MAY 2004

Parliament-Members

NEW FACES AMONG FAMILIAR ONES AT SWEARING-IN OF MPs

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- The swearing-in ceremony for newly-elected members of the Dewan Rakyat at the Parliament House here

today saw many new faces among the familiar ones.

Although new as Members of Parliament (MPs), many have legislative experience, having served as elected representatives at the state level.

The experience naturally will prove handy to them in their new role as national legislators to serve the country as a whole.

The newcomers include Puteri Umno Chief Datuk Azalina Othman Said, who is also Youth and Sports Minister, and former Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya who has been appointed Finance Ministry Parliamentary Secretary.

Then, there is Datuk Johari Ibrahim, a former political secretary to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He is Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department. There is also Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim.

Azalina, the MP for Pengerang, Johor met after the ceremony said she looked forward to quality debate when the 11th Parliament began its session.

"MPs have a heavy duty to perform after being elected and this they must realise," she said.

The MP for Balik Pulau, Dr Hilmi meanwhile has served as Teluk Bahang assemblyman in Penang for three terms.

"It's a different atmosphere here all together. It's more challenging," he said.

Johari, the MP for Kubang Pasu, Kedah finds the duties as a parliamentary secretary very much different from that of a political secretary.

"I will use my experience as a political secretary to serve the people. MPs should keep up with time and must be ready to face whatever challenges," he said.

Another newcomer is MP for Parit Sulong, Johor Syed Hood Syed Edrus thanked the leadership for having the trust in the younger

generation to
serve the people.

He said the opportunity would enable them to gain the necessary
experience.

The MP for Baling, Kedah Datuk Dr Mashitah Ibrahim meanwhile was
glad

to note that more women had been elected as MPs.

Of the 219 MPs, 22 are women including three from DAP, one from
PAS and
one from Keadilan.

-- BERNAMA

NER AKT ABG