

27 MAR 2004
Profile-New faces
PROFILE OF NEW FACES IN THE CABINET

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Following is a profile of new faces in the Cabinet line-up announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today:

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT:

1. Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department JOSEPH ENTULU BELAUN, 49, is the former Sarawak Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Office, a post he held since 1998.

Entulu, the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) Youth Chief, contested and won the Selangau parliamentary seat with a 3,616-vote majority to defeat SNAP candidate Liman Sujang in the recent general election.

A former accounting lecturer with Universiti Institut Teknologi Mara (UiTM), he holds a Master's degree in Finance.

He made his election debut in the Sarawak state election in 1991, winning the Tamin state seat which he retained in the 1996 state election.

Born in Tamin on June 8, 1954, Entulu is married with two children.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department DATUK DR MASHITAH IBRAHIM, 39, is a renowned Islamic missionary and speaker.

She defeated former Grand Iman of the National Mosque and incumbent Datuk Taib Azamudden Md Taib by a 4,100-vote majority in the contest for the Baling parliamentary seat in the recent general election.

The former lecturer and assistant Professor in Al-Quran and Human Sciences of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) obtained her PhD in Syariah from the Cairo University and a bachelor's degree in Islamic studies from the Al-Azhar University, Egypt.

Born in Alor Star, she is involved in business, running a boutique specialising in Muslim clothings in Gombak, Selangor.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department DATUK JOHARI BAHARUM, 49, is the Political Secretary I to Prime Minister Datuk

Seri
Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Deputy Kubang Pasu Umno Pro Tem Chief contested the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat, held previously by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and defeated PAS candidate Dr Abdul Isa Ismail with a 13,712-vote majority.

Johari, who started his career as a teacher in 1977, was appointed as a political secretary in 1999 to Abdullah, who was then the Home Minister.

In March last year, he was appointed Political Secretary I to Dr Mahathir and remained in his post when Abdullah took over as the country's fifth Prime Minister on Oct 31 last year.

FINANCE MINISTRY:

Deputy Finance Minister TENGKU PUTERA TENGKU AWANG, 46, is among the four Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates who won in Terengganu in the 1999 general election.

The Hulu Terengganu Umno Pro Tem Chief retained his Telemung state seat, which he won in the 1995 general election, in the recent general election.

A Public Administration graduate from UiTM, Tengku Putera also holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). He was also State Executive Councillor in the Terengganu state government in 1995.

Born in Hulu Terengganu, he married Halijah Ali and they have five children, two boys and three girls.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Finance Ministry DATUK DR HILMI YAHAYA, 55, is the former Penang Deputy Chief Minister and State Executive Councillor.

Dr Hilmi, a former government doctor, was appointed State Infrastructure and Public Utilities Committee Chairman in 1990, and State Transport and Communication Committee Chairman in 1995.

In 1999, in addition to his post as Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Hilmi was also State Religion, Land, Planning and Development Programmes Committee Chairman.

He is also Deputy Chairman of the Bumiputera Steering Committee.

INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTRY:

Parliamentary Secretary to Internal Security Minister DATUK WIRA
ABU

SEMAN YUSOP, 60, is the Mara Chairman.

A Melaka Umno treasurer and Masjid Tanah Umno Pro Tem Chief Abu
Seman

runs a legal firm, Messrs Abu Seman & Co.

A former police inspector and an Anti-Corruption Agency officer
in the

early 1970s, he holds a law degree from Middle Temple, London.

On his return from London, he was appointed Deputy Public
Prosecutor in
the Attorney General's Chambers in 1978 and later left the post to
join the
Malaysian International Shipping Corporation (MISC) as the Executive
Officer for legal affairs.

He is married to Datin Wira Rahimi Yeop and they have two sons,
Abu
Azrine (31) and Abu Erwann (24).

HOME MINISTRY:

Parliamentary Secretary to the Home Ministry DATUK PADUKA ABDUL
RAHMAN

IBRAHIM, defeated Deputy Kedah PAS Commissioner Mahfuz Omar in the
contest
for the Pokok Sena parliamentary seat with a 7,300-vote majority in the
the
recent general election.

The former Pokok Sena Umno head who did not contest in the 1999
general
election, did his Master's in Arts in Universiti Utara Malaysia
(UUM) at
the age of 50.

Abdul Rahman, who started his career as a teacher in 1970,
contested
and won the Derga state seat in the 1986 general election, which
held for
two terms. He was a State Executive Councillor from 1990 to 1999.

In 1995, he contested and won the newly created Tanjong Seri
seat.

Abdul Rahman was born on Augt 21, 1949 in Kg Kandai, Kota Setar.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY:

Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister DATUK HUSNI
HANADZLAH,

52, who is also the Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional (PTPTN) chairman, is an economic graduate from Unversiti Malaya (UM).

He started his career as an audit officer with Coopers & Lybrand in 1972 and later as credit analyst with Chase Manhattan Bank four years. He blended well in business and politics.

In 1978, Husni became the assistant manager of Asiavest Merchant Bankers Berhad before becoming a manager with Syarikat Majuperak Bhd and later General Manager of Perak State Islamic Economic Corporation.

The Tambun Umno Pro Tem Chief is a well known figure in the corporate world, where he owned the Ipoh-based Isba Holdings and also the director of Felcra Berhad and Yayasan Pelajaran Mara.

In recognition of his vast potential and credentials, Husni was made the chairman of Maltrade last year. He is also the chairman of Yayasan Perak.

Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister MAH SIEW KEONG, 43, is a Gerakan Youth Chief and has been the Member of Parliament (MP) for Teluk Intan since the 1999 general election.

The London School of Economics graduate also has a Master's degree in marketing from City University, London. Mah beat DAP candidate Chong Tat Cheong for the Pasir Bedamar state seat with a 3,172-vote majority in the 1995 general election.

Parliamentary Secretary for the International Trade and Industry Ministry DATUK PADUKA DR TAN YEE KEW is the Deputy Wanita MCA Chief.

A PhD holder from Universiti Malaya (UM), Tan defeated DAP's Fong Kui Lun in the 1995 general election by a 6,124-vote majority in the contest for the Klang parliamentary seat.

Tan, who runs a cleaning, cosmetics and apparel business, is into her thrid term as the MPfor Klang.

RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY

Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister DATUK DR AWANG ADEK HUSSIN, 48, who is also Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) Chairman since 2002, rose to the peak of the corporate world within a relatively short

period.

The quiet and unassuming Dr Awang had quite a long stint at Bank Negara. He was there since 1985 and was its Assistant Governor from 1996 to 2001.

In politics, he can be considered as a newcomer. He joined the Peropok Umno branch in 1997 and became it the Bachok Umno deputy chief in April 2001. Two years later, he was Kelantan Umno Treasurer.

In November last year, he was made Bachok Umno Pro Tem Chief replacing Datuk Ahmad Shahibuddin Mohd Noor.

A graduate in mathematics and economics from Drew University, New Jersey, United States, he is also a director of Universiti Tenaga Nasional Bhd, Royal Mint Exchange and AKNMtech.

TOURISM MINISTRY:

Deputy Tourism Minister DATUK AHMAD ZABIDI HAMIDI, 51, has vast experience in the corporate sector, especially in banking.

He started with Overseas Chinese Bank Corporation (OCBC) before joining Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) and in 1994 became its chairman.

The former Umno Youth Chief holds a bachelor's degree in Literature from Universiti Malaya (UM) and a Master's degree from Universiti Putra Malaysia. He is the chairman of Syarikat Perumahan Negara, Maju Perak Bhd and Harta Perak Corporation.

-- BERNAMA

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