

08/07/2004

Malek to be sworn in as Court of Appeal president

By Aniza Damis

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - Federal Court judge Datuk Abdul Malek Ahmad, one of the country's most respected judges, will be sworn in as the Court of Appeal president on Monday.

He is expected to take his oath before Chief Justice Tan Sri Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Ahmad at noon after receiving his letter of appointment from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at Istana Melawati here.

According to a source, Court of Appeal judge Datuk Alauddin Mohd Sheriff will also be elevated to Federal Court judge. He has been a Court of Appeal judge since April 23, 2001.

The New Straits Times understands that Malek was notified of the swearing-in ceremony on Monday.

The position of Court of Appeal president fell vacant more than a year ago when the then president, Fairuz, was appointed Chief Justice.

The decision to appoint Malek is seen by many, including lawyers, as a move by the Government to restore the image and integrity of the Judiciary.

He is known by the Bar to be a hard-working man who delivers his judgments fast.

He also has an impeccable reputation as a jurist.

Malek began his legal career as a magistrate in Kuala Lumpur in 1966. In his nearly 40 years of service, he has served in Kuala Lumpur, Perlis, Malacca, Pahang, Penang, Kelantan and Perak.

He was a High Court judge from 1985 to 1995 and a Court of Appeal judge from 1995 to 1999.

On May 1, 1999, he was made a Federal Court judge.

Among the important cases he dealt with as Federal Court judge was the RM100 million defamation suit by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim against former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1999.

Malek was also on the Federal Court panel which ruled as unlawful the 60-day detention order by the police against five Opposition leaders and activists under the Internal Security Act.

The appellants were Keadilan Youth chief Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor, its national vice-president, Chua Tian Chang a.k.a. Tian Chua, Reformasi activist Hishammudin Rais, former Jemaah Islamiyah Malaysia president Saari Sungib and "Free Anwar" campaign director Raja Petra Raja Kamarudin.

Alauddin was chairman of the Prime Minister's Department Advisory Board, Legal Adviser in Johor, Official Assignee and Senior Federal Counsel of the Inland Revenue Board.

He was also president of the Sessions Court in several States, and has served as a judicial commissioner in Johor Baru and High Court judge in Kangar and Alor Star.

(END)