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Abdullah: Dynamic Jamaludin my best man for Domestic Trade portfolio

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi tonight said former Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis was the best candidate to replace Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister.

He described Jamaludin as "young, strong and dynamic" and the best replacement to head the ministry.

"When I wanted to move Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to the Agriculture portfolio, I thought Jamaludin was the best candidate because he has good leadership qualities."

"Now you are the boss and I hope you will help expand the domestic economy which is equally important," said Abdullah at an appreciation dinner for Jamaludin and to welcome Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop as new Second Finance Minister.

The dinner, held at Sheraton Hotel, was organised by the Finance Ministry Welfare and Sports Club.

Abdullah also thanked Jamaludin for keeping him updated on activities of the Finance Ministry following his appointment as Prime Minister on Oct 31.

Abdullah took over the Finance portfolio from his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Jamaludin briefed him every Tuesday on key matters relating to the ministry, ahead of the weekly Cabinet meetings on Wednesdays.

"He briefed me on the various issues and procedures for my understanding and this was helpful," Abdullah said.

Dr Mahathir appointed Jamaludin to the post 14 months ago and in a minor reshuffle last week, he was given a new responsibility.

Abdullah said Nor Mohamed was no stranger to the (Finance) ministry having served as adviser before his elevation.

"I hope he can serve at least one term because his experience is much needed," he said.

Jamaludin thanked Abdullah for having confidence in him.