

17/06/2003

Rais: Accountability has been maintained

reports on "Dewan Rakyat" by M.K. Megan; Elizabeth John; Sujatani  
ACCOUNTABILITY has been maintained and confidence in the country's  
administrative system upheld with the move to replace Ampang Jaya  
Municipal Council president Ahmad Kabit, said Datuk Seri Rais Yatim  
yesterday.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department said Ahmad's replacement  
was a "direct response" by the Selangor Government in handling the ongoing  
problem at the municipal council.

"The direct and immediate executive action should be highly commended,"  
he said at the Parliament lobby.

He was commenting on Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir  
Toyo's statement on Sunday that Ahmad would be relieved of his post to  
restore public confidence in the local authority.

"Will his successor produce the desired results? I will see to it that  
the next president will pull up his socks since I am a resident in Ampang  
Jaya and I am also the patron of the Ampang Jaya Residents Association."

Asked if the replacement of the president came a little too late and  
that it should have been done much earlier, Rais said: "Timing is a matter  
which is subjective. It (his replacement) is still on time.

"Let us hope the whole country gets a boost of service after this. We  
deserve it as we are taxpayers."

Rais also said it was not fair for some quarters to claim that Umno  
would be in turmoil after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad  
resigns in October.

"He is not a vindictive man. He has placid understanding and conjures  
ideas for the sake of the country and party. The experience Dr Mahathir  
has given is immense and Pak Lah (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) and  
the rest of us have learnt a lot from it."

On the amendments to the Bankruptcy Act 1967, Rais said among the  
changes would be the name of the department handling the cases. It would  
be known as the Insolvency Department and the head of the Official  
Assignees' Department would be known as the director-general of  
insolvency.

"The amount for which a person can be made a bankrupt will also be  
increased from RM10,000 to RM30,000. This will result in fewer people  
being declared bankrupts."