

MAS CEO made 2nd KPI minister
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Malaysian Airlines (MAS) chief executive officer Idris Jala has been appointed as a minister without a portfolio in order to implement key-performance index (KPI) initiatives for the government.

In a statement today, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said Idris would also be appointed chief executive of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu).

"As the CEO of Pemandu (the organisation that will oversee the implementation of the KPI initiatives) Idris will complement, support and report to Dr Koh Tsu Koon, minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of national unity and performance Management," he added.

Koh's overall duties are to formulate executive policies and strategies on performance management and organisational transformation on National Key Results Areas (N-KRA).

Koh to steer Pemandu

Koh will be made chairperson of Pemandu, while Idris will be appointed deputy chair. The board members consists of the chief secretary to the government and other senior officials.

According to Najib, Idris would be providing his expertise and experiences in Shell and MAS to implement performance management in the federal government.

He further added that the MAS board will announce a new managing director and CEO soon to replace Idris.

Idris is best known for bringing MAS out of the red, after the company suffered catastrophic losses in 2005.

Prior to his stint in MAS Idris spent 23 years at oil-giant Shell, in various capacities.

Economy: Worst is over

In another development, Najib, who is also finance minister, said Malaysia's economy is on track for recovery.

"I think the worst is over. We have turned around the corner," he said when asked on the second quarter gross domestic product (GDP) figure released by Bank Negara Malaysia yesterday.

The central bank reported a lower contraction of 3.9 percent in the country's GDP compared with a 6.2 percent decline in the first quarter.

This brought the GDP growth for the first half of this year to minus 5.1 percent. Bank Negara Malaysia governor Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz in announcing the figures attributed the smaller contraction to higher public spending and positive growth in private consumption.

Najib said he was pleased with the latest number.

"The two stimulus packages have actually contributed to the performance of the Malaysian economy," he added.

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