



SOLEMNLY SWORN IN: Najib takes his oath as the Deputy Prime Minister before the King. Witnessing the ceremony are Abdullah and Endon. — Bemama picture

Najib leads ministers in oath-taking before the King

KUALALUMPUR, Tues. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and the other members of the new Malaysian Cabinet and their deputy ministers today took their oaths of office before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at Istana Negara.

Unlike after the 1999 general election, when the incoming Government took its oath of office in unison two weeks after the elections, this time Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was sworn in as Prime Minister on March 22, a day after the Barisan Nasional Government was returned to power.

The BN won the elections with a thumping majority of 198 of 219 seats in Parliament.

Najib led 31 ministers and 38 deputy ministers in batches through today's ceremony.

They signed their instruments, of office before Chief Justice Tan Sri Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim.

These documents were then ceremonially handed over to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Samsudih Osman, who is also Secretary to the Cabinet.

The new Ministers and deputies also pledged oaths of secrecy.

Present at the investiture were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah, Abdullah and his wife, Datin Seri Endon Mahmood.



FIVE MINISTERS: Taking their oaths of office are (from left) Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz. — Bemama picture

Najib, 50, who was named Deputy Prime Minister on Jan 7, was re-appointed to the post and retained the defence portfolio in the new Cabinet line-up.

The ceremony ended with prayers recited by Federal Territory Mufti Prof Dr Mohammed Yusoff Hussain. — Bernama