

# MINISTERS OUT

QUIT YESTERDAY

QUIT ON OCT 15, 2005

DROPPED



**KADIR**  
replaced by Zainuddin



**ADENAN**  
replaced by Azmi



**ISA**  
replaced by Zulhasnan



**DR TOYAD**  
replaced by Tengku Adnan



**SHAFIE**  
replaced by Effendi

NOT-15/2/2006

# Minor Cabinet reshuffle

■ **By Hamidah Atan and Deborah Loh**

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**PUTRAJAYA, Tues.** — At best, the reshuffle was minor. Perhaps, more telling, was that key Umno Ministers deemed to have performed were retained in their previous positions.

In the reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi this afternoon, eight ministries will get new heads in portfolio shuffle.

But in effect, only two ministers were dropped and two resigned.

Replacing them were two veteran politicians who served in the pre-2004 Cabinet and two deputy ministers who were promoted.

The two who resigned are Datuk Seri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Information) and Datuk Seri Adenan Satem (Natural Resources and Environment).

They were replaced, respectively, by former deputy minister of Information Datuk Zainuddin Maidin and Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid, who was moved out of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The two who were dropped were Tourism Minister Datuk Dr Leo Michael Toyad and Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Salleh, both of whom were deemed not to have performed to expectations.

They were replaced by Tengku Datuk Adnan Mansor, who was dropped from the Cabinet in 2004, and Datuk Seri Effendi Norwawi, who had opted for retirement in 2004 citing health reasons.

The other deputy minister to be promoted was Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique, who stepped into the Federal Territories Minister's post vacated by Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad, who was dropped last year due to involvement in money politics.

The key ministers who were seen to have done a good job and were retained were Abdullah's deputy, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his Defence portfolio, Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Khaled Nordin and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman Said.

Minister in charge of Parliamentary Affairs, Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, seen as another of the bright sparks in the Cabinet, was given the added responsibility of handling the law portfolio.

The previous minister in the Prime Minister's Department handling that portfolio, Datuk Radzi

Sheikh Ahmad, was moved to the more powerful Home Affairs Ministry.

The fiery and outspoken International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, who is the second longest-serving Cabinet member but perceived as one of the more effective ministers, was also retained.

Ministers of other component parties were unaffected in the largely Umno reshuffle, although some changes were made at deputy minister and parliamentary secretary level which saw some younger politicians being elevated to higher posts or brought in at the entry-level parliamentary secretary's post.

The long-serving Energy, Water and Communications Minister Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik, who is Gerakan president, and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, who is MIC president, remained in their posts although both are well into their late 60s.

However, under the component party-based coalition government practised by the Barisan Nasional Government, these leaders leave only when they relinquish their party posts or voluntarily retire.

Cabinet reshuffles by all previous Prime Ministers rarely affect component party leaders.

At a packed Press conference,

Abdullah, flanked by his deputy Najib, and Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Samsudin Osman, was asked the rationale for appointing certain ministers, including Rafidah, despite the Approved Permit (AP) controversy last year.

On Rafidah, the Prime Minister said: "I still need her experience to drive Miti to implement what we want to do this year — to increase foreign investment so that we can become more competitive in free trade and to create more economic co-operation."

"I know the AP issue was the most controversial issue affecting Rafidah but Miti is not just about APs alone. Miti is larger than that."

Abdullah said Rafidah's experience and expertise would benefit the Government and the country.

On why Shafie was dropped: "I feel that the post should be held by somebody else."

On Kadir's resignation: "He expressed his desire to resign about nine months ago."

On Adenan: "He told me he wanted to return to Sarawak to concentrate on a full-time job there."

On Radzi's appointment as Home Affairs Minister:

"It is only appropriate because he has legal qualifications and background to lead the ministry."