

ISMAIL SABRI TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

He is sworn in as ninth prime minister in a ceremony at Istana Negara

KUALA LUMPUR

UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob took the oath of office as the ninth prime minister before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah yesterday.

The ceremony, which involved the conferment of the instrument of appointment and taking the oath of office and allegiance, as well as the oath of secrecy as the prime minister, was held at Balai Singgahsana Kecil of Istana Negara here at 2.20pm.

Ismail Sabri was sworn in as prime minister at 2.28pm.

Al-Sultan Abdullah consented to Ismail Sabri's appointment as prime minister in accordance

with Article 40(2)(a) and Article 43(2)(a) of the Constitution.

The Bera member of parliament was appointed prime minister following the resignation of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president and Pagoh MP, on Aug 16 after failing to command a majority in Parliament after 15 Umno MPs withdrew support for Perikatan Nasional.

The ceremony was graced by Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah.

Ismail Sabri, 61, clad in black baju melayu and sampang, was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Muhaini Zainal Abidin.

After taking the oath of office, Ismail Sabri signed the document.

It was witnessed by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat.

Present were Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad

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Zahid Hamidi, Muhyiddin, Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili and Gabungan Parti Sarawak chairman Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The ceremony ended with a recital of prayer by Federal Territories Mufti Datuk Dr Luqman Abdullah.

Ismail Sabri thanked Al-Sultan Abdullah for appointing him prime minister.

He expressed his appreciation to Dewan Rakyat members who nominated him to succeed Muhyiddin.

"I thank Allah for this appointment as prime minister.

"My thanks also go to fellow members of parliament, including independents and heads of political parties," he said outside his residence here yesterday.

He expressed gratitude to Zahid and Umno's Supreme Council for their confidence in him.

The former deputy prime minister said he would issue a statement today on his appointment to the country's top post. **Bernama**