

**Appointment As DPM Not A Reward But A Responsibility - Ahmad Zahid  
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PUTRAJAYA, July 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has described his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister replacing Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yasin not as a reward, but a responsibility to the nation and all races in Malaysia.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also UMNO Vice President, said his appointment which is effective from tomorrow (July 29) was proof that he had been a team player with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for a long time.

"I cannot avoid the responsibility and it is history repeating itself when Najib was appointed Youth and Sports Minister and I was appointed Political Secretary.

"Then, I followed Najib as Political Secretary when he was appointed Defence Minister," he told reporters after the announcement of a cabinet reshuffle by the Prime Minister at Perdana Putra Building here today.

In the reshuffle, Ahmad Zahid who retains his portfolio as Home Minister said: "I never expected and saw it (the appointment as Deputy Prime Minister) but Allah has destined it. I accept it as fate."

Ahmad Zahid also urged all cabinet members, UMNO Supreme Council members and the top leadership of Barisan Nasional (BN) to continue supporting Najib.

The cabinet reshuffle sees five people being dropped and seven new appointments as ministers.

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