

DPM Zahid Hamidi Has Vast Experience In Politics, Banking Sector

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who was announced as the new deputy prime minister, has over 30 years of experience in politics and the banking sector.

Ahmad Zahid, who remains as Home Minister in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's latest cabinet line-up announced today, has also held several other positions in previous administrations.

Holding a PhD from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Ahmad Zahid, 62, who hails from Bagan Datoh, Perak, became a member of the cabinet as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (2008-2009) during Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's administration.

He then held the Defence Minister's post from 2009 to 2013, before being switched to his current portfolio as Home Minister, since May 16, 2013.

Before joining the cabinet, Ahmad Zahid served as Deputy Minister of Tourism in 2004, and Deputy Minister of Information from 2006 to 2008.

The working relationship between Ahmad Zahid and Najib had begun a long time back, as he had served as political secretary to Najib, when the latter was Youth and Sports Minister and then Defence Minister (all between 1987 and 1993).

He was appointed as a member of the Senate for one term, from 1991 to 1994.

Ahmad Zahid became active in politics when he was elected as Bagan Datoh Umno Youth head in 1984.

He continued to climb the ranks within UMNO at the national level when he was elected as UMNO Youth chief from 1996 to 1999.

His political career was further boosted after he was elected as a member of the party's Supreme Council for two terms, from 2000 to 2007.

Ahmad Zahid was chosen as one of three UMNO vice-presidents for two terms, in 2008-2011 and 2013-2016.

In the 13th General Election, he retained the Bagan Datoh parliamentary seat for the fifth consecutive term after defeating Madhi Hasan of Parti Keadilan Rakyat, with a majority of 2,108 votes.

He was first elected as Bagan Datoh UMNO division chief in 1995 and retains the position until now.

Before venturing into politics, Ahmad Zahid was involved in the banking sector, and served in several banks, such as OCBC from 1976-1977, Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) from 1977-1979 and as the marketing manager of Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN) from 1979-1984.

His vast experience in banking led to his appointment as BSN chairman from 1994 to 1999.

Ahmad Zahid was also appointed as chairman of Syarikat Perumahan Negara Berhad in 2000.

He received his early education at SK Sungai Balai, Rungkup, before continuing his studies at SM Agama Izuddin Shah, Ipoh, and SMK Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang.

He then obtained his Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree from the University of Malaya in 1976.

He earned a Master's of Science in Corporate Communication in 2000, and subsequently a PhD in Communication from UPM.

Ahmad Zahid is married to Datin Seri Hamidah Khamis, 60, and they have been blessed with two daughters, Nurulhidayah and Nurulizawani, and three sons, Ahmad Khairul Hafies, Ahmad Shafiq Hazieq and Ahmad Ashraf Arief.

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