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Pintasilgo Sets Out On '100-Day March'

LISBON, Portugal (UPI) — Prime Minister-designate Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo promised Tuesday that she and her cabinet would provide vigorous and "innovative" rule.

At her first news conference since being named Portugal's first designated woman prime minister, Miss Pintasilgo said that although her government was only a caretaker regime, it was "a constitutional government without limits except that of time."

Miss Pintasilgo's government is expected to rule until parliament is dissolved and early elections held in the autumn.

She described her task as "a 100-day march," an allusion to the legendary "Long March" of the insurgent Chinese Communists before World War II.

She said she chose her team for "competence," "impartiality which should not be confused with neutrality" and "management experience."

"We are going to introduce certain innovations for the sake of efficiency," she said.

Miss Pintasilgo announced her cabinet appointments, all of them men, Monday shortly after a Maoist delegation met with her and then leaked the names when it learned one of its members was among those nominated for the cabinet.

Eight of the 16 nominees were engineers, and three were military officers.

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes asked Miss Pintasilgo on July 19 to form a stop-gap "government of 100 days" to oversee the dissolution of the legislature and subsequent elections.



LISBON, Portugal (UPI) — Prime Minister-designate Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo speaking at a press conference Tuesday.

Ramalho was expected to swear in the cabinet Wednesday, setting up Portugal's

11th government since the 1974 revolution restored democracy. Once sworn in, the government will have 10 days to draw up its programs before seeking parliament's approval.

Miss Pintasilgo, a chemical engineer before serving as Portugal's ambassador to UNESCO, kept three ministers from the outgoing government of Premier Carlos Mota Pinto.