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Malacca Exco reshuffle `not linked to ACA probe'

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MALACCA, Sat. - Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani today reiterated that the reshuffle in the State Executive Council planned in June had nothing to do with the investigations by the Anti-Corruption Agency on three of its eight Exco members for alleged corrupt practices.

Mohd Zin said it was normal for any State Government to reshuffle its line-up as and when the need arose.

"After all, the reshuffle will be just a minor one... it is not going to be major," he told reporters after launching the 35th multiple district of the Lions convention at a secondary school.

"We will create new portfolios and the people who will run them will be different.

"The eight State Exco members will stay put... there won't be any new appointments," he said.

Mohd Zin said early this month that the reshuffle was inevitable to ensure that the right people were given the right portfolios.

"Their portfolios should suit their interests. It is easy and more practical to work this way," he said, adding that he would meet the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin to get his consent on the reshuffle.

The ACA's probe was revealed by Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Azmi Khalid in Parliament when responding to a question from Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka) last week.

Mohd Zin said no State Exco member had voiced his intention to resign.

"I will discuss the reshuffle with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and get his consent," he added.

He said if the three State Exco members had been found guilty of corrupt practices, it would be up to the PM to decide.

Mohd Zin also agreed with Dr Mahathir who said yesterday that there was no reason for the eight State Exco members - three from Malacca, and one each from Johor, Pahang, Kedah, Sabah, and Selangor - to resign from their posts just because they were being investigated by the ACA.

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