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Parliament-Ministers

CABINET MINISTERS NEED NOT BE REAPPOINTED- HOUSE SPEAKER

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Dr Mohamed Zahir Ismail said today there is no need for Cabinet Ministers to be reappointed following the appointment of a new Prime Minister.

The appointment of the present Cabinet was constitutionally valid, he told the Dewan Rakyat.

Yesterday, Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) had asked the House Speaker to make a ruling on whether the present Cabinet should be reappointed as the country now had a new Prime Minister.

Mahfuz wanted to know if the new Prime Minister should advise the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on reappointing the Cabinet Ministers in line with Article 43(2)(A) of the Constitution which reads:

"On the advice of the Prime Minister, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong should appoint other ministers from among members of Parliament."

The House Speaker said the Cabinet Ministers as well as the Prime Minister were appointed on Dec 14, 1999, that is after the general election of Nov 29, 1999.

He said under Article 43(2)(A), the Prime Minister is a member of the Cabinet and normally, if any of the Cabinet Ministers stepped down or was sacked by the Prime Minister, then a new Minister is appointed.

He said this was the approach that was adopted when the new Prime Minister, who is a member of the Cabinet, was appointed on Oct 31, when the then Prime Minister retired.

"This then follows, the Cabinet Ministers need not be reappointed as the present government is the government that was appointed on Dec 14, 1999, and there has been only a change in the Prime Minister, like a change in other Ministers," he said.

This was the practice when the fourth Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad succeeded Tun Hussein Onn on July 16, 1981 and also when Tun Hussein Onn succeeded the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak.

-- BERNAMA

MUN MOZ AAM