

'Why didn't PM use proper channels?'

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The Pontian Umno division leader has questioned whether Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak had consulted the right parties before performing a cabinet reshuffle.

Speaking at the Pontian Umno delegates meeting today, Hasni Mohammad said all division leaders were asked on whether a cabinet reshuffle was necessary through phone text messaging.

"The administrator of the Whatsapp group said that if 150 division leaders agree with it, the (party) president (Najib) would go ahead.

"Why wasn't the supreme council or the proper communication channels used?" he asked.

He claimed that some of the Umno division chiefs in the Whatsapp group considered themselves more influential than others because they have met Najib twice or thrice.

"It all started when they were able to knock at the president's door at any time and was referred to by the president most of the time.

"So they became big-headed, to the point that if what I say today is considered to be hurtful for the president, they can vote for action to be taken against me.

"If this is referred to by the president, what can I do? Even the deputy prime minister was dropped, what more myself?" he asked.

Reminder for Johor leaders

What Hasni claimed today appear to confirm Umno supreme council member Abdul Aziz Kaprawi's statement earlier this month, that cabinet was reshuffled after more than 150 Umno division chiefs agreed to it.

Abdul Aziz had however said that the matter was discussed in the Telegram messaging application after Muhyiddin made his criticism on the 1MDB fiasco in public.

The deputy transport minister also said that the supreme council had given Najib the mandate to reshuffle the cabinet.

Hasni, meanwhile, also took the opportunity to "remind" Johor Umno leaders who are in Najib's cabinet to perform their duties well.

Among those mentioned were Umno vice-president Hishammuddin Hussein, Abdul Aziz, newly-appointed minister in the prime minister's department Azalina Othman Said,

international trade and industry deputy minister Ahmad Maslan and newly appointed deputy home minister Nur Jazlan Mohamed.

"Do know that Johoreans were hurt when Muhyiddin was dropped from the cabinet after 38 years helping the government and after 41 years being part of the Umno leadership," he said, to loud cheers from the crowd.

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