

**Singapore's New Cabinet Likely To Be Announced In Coming Week**  
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SINGAPORE -- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is likely to unveil his cabinet line-up in the coming week but has not indicated whether he will accept Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew's and Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong's decision to step down.

In a statement yesterday, the elder Lee and Goh announced their decision to step down, paving way for the prime minister and his team to start afresh.

Analysts predicted that the cabinet would have an interesting line up, saying it might see many new faces from the younger generation.

After the recent general election, several ministers including Foreign Minister George Yeo, who lost in his Aljunied constituency, have announced their retirement from politics.

The ruling People's Action Party, which has been in power since Singapore became a self-governing state in 1959, had introduced many new candidates during the May 7 election.

The introduction of younger blood is a regular generational cycle that party leaders had earlier said was more significant than usual this year because "the new slate probably includes the next prime minister."

Prime Minister Lee described the decision by two major figures like Lee and Goh to leave the government as "a major event for Singapore."

"It shows that they are thinking of Singapore and of the future of Singapore," he told reporters after a post-election victory parade on Saturday.

He said the move was initiated by both leaders, but said that he had already known their intentions.

Lee is retiring from the cabinet after 52 years. He took office as prime minister in 1959 while his successor Goh has held various portfolios in the cabinet since 1979.

(Bernama)

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