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No cabinet reshuffle for now, says prime minister

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SEREMBAN: The prime minister yesterday put to rest speculation of a cabinet reshuffle and said he has not even thought about it.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said although a reshuffle could be done anytime, there was no need for one now considering the present cabinet was formed only about seven months ago.

"If we reshuffle the cabinet too often, it will jeopardise the work of the ministers, while changes in such a short time would also affect the flow of the federal administration," he said after presenting prizes to winners in the wives of Barisan Nasional elected representatives games which ended here yesterday.

At the games, the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, demonstrated her skills on the court when she and Datin Seri Lee Su Loo defeated Datin Seri Panglima Siti Jaayah and Datin Chudy Julious from Bakisa (Sabah) in the badminton doubles final.

Najib said there were still some issues at the deputy minister level which he needed to look into.

When asked if there was a time frame when a reshuffle would be made, he said there was none.

"Please be fair to me. How can I indicate when? If I set a date, everyone will be on the edge and that is not good.

"Any changes to the cabinet must be for the better and its overall improvement. A reshuffle cannot be made merely for the sake of making changes."



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor with Baiduri (Perak) members, the winners of Piala Perdana 1Malaysia bowling tournament at the wives of Barisan Nasional elected representatives games yesterday. — Picture by Dzulkeffli Mustapha

On his three-day official visit to Thailand, Najib said he would speak to Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva on how to find a solution to the conflict in southern Thailand.

"Though the situation has improved a bit, there is still no comprehensive and final solution. I will visit southern Thailand at Abhisit's invitation.

"It was his decision to give me the opportunity to meet Islamic leaders in the area, and maybe I can give them some advice on the

importance for all to work together to find a solution that can secure a better future for them."

Najib will be in Thailand to attend the 4th Malaysia-Thailand Annual Consultation in Bangkok starting tomorrow.

He will be accompanied by eight cabinet ministers and two deputy ministers.

The annual consultation between the two prime ministers and their delegates is scheduled to take place on Tuesday.

On the possibility of Bangkok of-

fering a certain degree of autonomy to people in the predominantly Muslim region, he said: "We do not call it state autonomy in Thailand. This word has several different meanings.

"What we hope is for the locals there to be able to make decisions regarding their welfare like issues of education and religious administration. We also hope their government would look into improving the economy and development in the area and also provide them with more job opportunities."