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No reason for a reshuffle

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Najib: It is too soon as Cabinet was just formed in April

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SEREMBAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak has ruled out a Cabinet reshuffle anytime soon, saying that it is too soon since its formation in April.

He, however, did not discount changes to the deputy ministers' line-up.

He said any reshuffling of Cabinet positions within seven months from the last one would only disrupt the smooth administration of the government.

"I am sure my ministers need more time to carry out the tasks given to them. I don't see any reason for changes to be done at this stage," he said.

Najib was asked to comment on talk that there would be a Cabinet reshuffle sometime soon following developments in Barisan Nasional component parties.

Some of these have seen changes in leadership following party polls.

Asked if he had given his ministers a time frame to prove themselves before the next Cabinet reshuffle, Najib said that

would not be appropriate.

"Whatever changes that are made must be for the better ... although this is at the discretion of the Prime Minister, I don't think that I should set a time frame," he said.

However, Najib said he might review the deputy ministers' positions but did not say how many changes would be made.

He was speaking to reporters after presenting prizes to teams comprising wives of Barisan Nasional elected representatives competing in their annual games here.

On his three-day visit to Thailand beginning tomorrow, Najib said he had been invited by his counterpart Abhisit Vejjajiva to meet with Islamic leaders in the restive southern province.

"We need to find a long-lasting solution to the problem in the region and ensure that the people could live in peace and harmony," he said.

Najib is scheduled to travel to Narathiwat and tour the province together with Abhisit the following day where they will attend a ceremony to rename the bridge which links Bukit Bunga and Ban Buketa as the Friendship Bridge.