

# Five ministers, five deputies appointed in reshuffle

> Restructuring vital to address economic development changes, issues affecting people, including cost of living: PM

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has announced the appointment of five ministers and five deputy ministers, including four new faces and five former ministers.

Anwar, who retained the finance portfolio, said yesterday the Cabinet reshuffle was necessary to address every change in terms of economic development and issues affecting the people, including the cost of living.

"International acceptance, which requires the Foreign Ministry to take up more tasks, as well as issues related to education, especially in our efforts to explore new areas such as artificial intelligence and digital transformation, are the things that led me to consider making some adjustments (to the Cabinet) given the current situation and demands."

He added that the restructuring exercise was carried out after discussions with leaders of the unity government's main component

parties, and the list of names was submitted to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah for consent.

When asked whether there would be another reshuffle should the ministers' performance prove unsatisfactory, Anwar expressed hope that they would do their level best until the next general election.

"I hope, *Insyaa-Allah*, if their performance is good and satisfactory, and there are no new pressures or issues, I don't think there should be any changes for the next four years until the next general election."

Anwar said the 20% salary cut for Cabinet members would continue, including for the new appointees.

"The salary cut will continue, except for the prime minister who has no salary."

On Dec 5 last year, Anwar had announced that Cabinet members had agreed to a monthly 20% salary cut until the country's economy recovered.

He said the restructuring exercise of some ministries is based on current needs, Bernama reported.

Anwar said the Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Ministry has been split into the Energy Transition and Public Utilities Ministry as well as the Natural Resources and Sustainability Ministry.

The Communications and Digital Ministry has been divided into the Communications Ministry and the Digital Ministry.

The reshuffle saw the number of ministers

in the Cabinet being expanded from 28 to 31, while the number of deputy ministers was increased from 27 to 29, bringing the total number of unity government administrative members to 60.

The new ministers appointed were Titiwangsa MP and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Gharii (plantation and commodities), Damansara MP and DAP deputy chairman Gobind Singh Deo (digital), Kuala Selangor MP Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (health), and Employees Provident Fund CEO Senator Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan (finance II) and former deputy finance minister Steven Sim Chee Keong (human resources).

The new deputy ministers are Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad (women, family and community development), M. Kulasegaran (law and institutional reform), Datuk Ramanan Ramakrishnan (entrepreneur development and cooperatives), Wong Kah Woh (education) and Senator Dr Zulkifli Hasan (religious affairs).

The Cabinet reshuffle also saw Human Resources Minister V. Sivakumar, as well as two deputy ministers Ramkarpal Singh (law and institutional reform) and Datuk Siti Aminah Aching (plantation and commodities) dropped.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new appointees was held at Istana Negara yesterday.