

# 'Cabinet reshuffle nothing to do with politics'

**PUTRAJAYA:** The recent Cabinet reshuffle announced by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is his prerogative as the prime minister and has nothing to do with politics, according to Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

The newly appointed higher education minister said Anwar has the absolute right to form a team that he deems best to perform its duties for the people.

"Undoubtedly, he has made the best assessment on how to continue, based on the response he received from the people, and on how he should restructure his Cabinet.

"It (the reshuffle) has nothing to do with politics as speculated by certain parties," he said, after scanning his thumbprint to begin his official duties at the Higher Education Ministry yesterday.

Zambry, who is also Umno supreme council member, was responding to an allegation that the Cabinet reshuffle was done with the aim of "protecting" Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is deputy prime minister and Umno president, Bernama reported.

The reshuffle involved the exchange of portfolios among Umno ministers, including Zambry, who was formerly the foreign minister

but was appointed as the higher education minister.

The portfolio of foreign minister is now held by Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, while Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin has assumed the post of defence minister.

Zambry added that Cabinet restructuring is a common practice to strengthen a government's administration.

"Our focus is on what needs to be implemented, what the prime minister has set out to do, because the goal of the Madani government is to give the best for the people."