

NO MAJOR RESHUFFLE OF CABINET, SAYS PM

Vacancies to be filled and Tengku Zafrul to get new role tomorrow

FAIQAH KAMARUDDIN
AND ZURAIMI ABDULLAH
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said some cabinet vacancies need to be filled, but he does not foresee a major reshuffle.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the current cabinet would remain in place for roughly “a year to 1½ years”.

Anwar was addressing questions on a cabinet reshuffle.

“I am considering what steps should be taken, but there is a need to fill those vacancies,” he said after officiating at Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd’s (Perodua) first electric vehicle here yesterday.

He added that a large-scale reshuffle was unlikely given the government’s short remaining term.

Current vacancies include the economy minister portfolio, which is being temporarily held by Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, and the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry, currently overseen by Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

The entrepreneur and cooperatives development minister post is also vacant following Datuk Ewon Benedick’s departure.

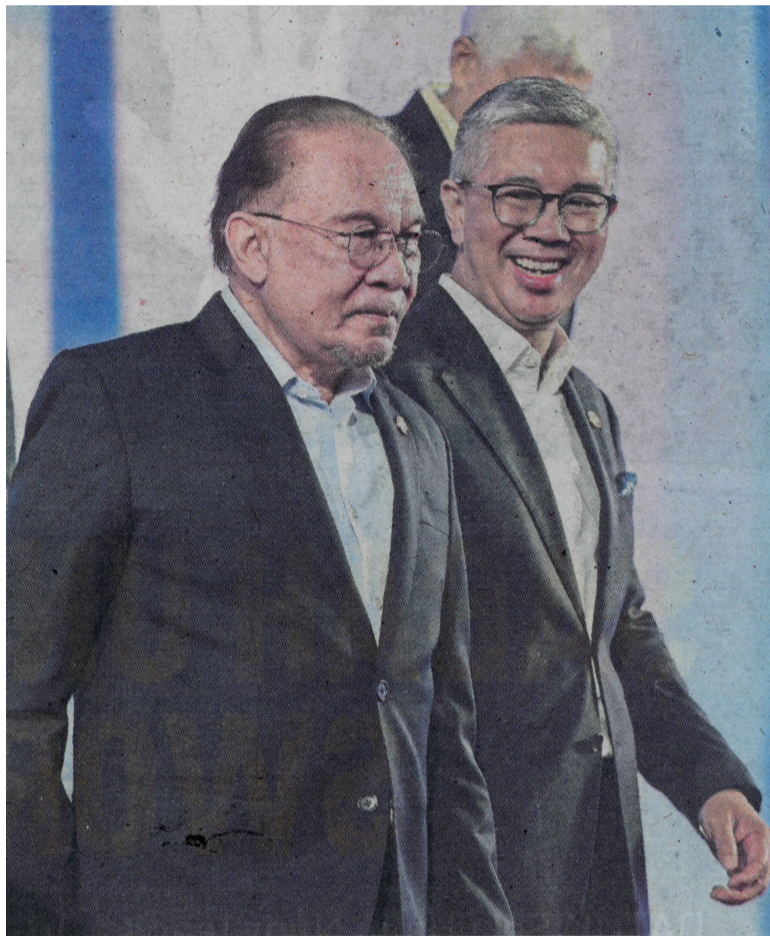
Additionally, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz will complete his term today, creating another cabinet vacancy.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Tengku Zafrul’s new role would be announced tomorrow.

He praised Tengku Zafrul’s performance, particularly in strengthening Malaysia’s international investment relations.

Tengku Zafrul reiterated his readiness to continue serving the government in any capacity.

“What was announced by the prime minister earlier, it seems there is an opportunity to continue serving.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz at the launch of Perodua’s first electric vehicle in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

“In whatever capacity, I am waiting, and on Dec. 3 we will find out the new responsibilities,” he said.

He also thanked the ministry’s secretary-general and staff for their support during his three-year tenure.

“Tomorrow (today) will be my last day at the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry. I am very grateful for the trust given to me.

“Of course, I feel sad to leave, but the ministry’s team is in a strong position and ready to continue driving the country’s investment and industrial sectors.”

Last month, Tengku Zafrul informed Anwar of his willingness to continue contributing to the ministry in an advisory capacity once his term ends.

He said discussions on the advisory role had yet to take place, but added that he was ready to help the incoming minister to ensure a smooth transition.

On Nov 28, government spokesman and Communica-

tions Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said Anwar had told the cabinet that Tengku Zafrul would continue to provide support.

Tengku Zafrul made his final appearance in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday at the committee-stage winding-up of the Supply Bill 2026.

The minister responded to questions about the Malaysia-United States reciprocal trade agreement.

“This is my final winding-up in Parliament. I want to thank everyone on both sides of the House, and Tan Sri Speaker (Tan Sri Johari Abdul) as well, for the support and guidance during my six years here,” he said to loud applause.

Tengku Zafrul has been a senator since 2020 and will end his second term today.

He has served as the investment, trade and industry minister in Anwar’s cabinet since Dec 3, 2022.

» See also **Page 5** and **Business Times Pages 2, 4 & 5**