

NEW LINEUP TO FOCUS ON DRIVING GROWTH

PM entrusts team to resolve people's problems, boost country's economy

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THE prime minister reshuffled his cabinet yesterday, changing the guards of several key ministries, promoting a few and dropping two ministers.

This came with just about two years before the current parliamentary term is scheduled to end.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim brought backbencher Dr Mohammed Taufiq Johari, 29, into his cabinet to lead the Youth and Sports Ministry, where both minister (Hannah Yeoh) and deputy (Adam Adli Abdul Halim) were moved out.

Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, who was previously entrusted to lead the Plantation and Commodities Ministry as well as the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry, was appointed investment, trade and industry minister.

Johari was assigned the natural resources and environmental sustainability portfolio following the resignation of its minister, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, in May.

Yeoh is now Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) replacing Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa — one of the two casualties in the reshuffle.

The other is Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, who was replaced by his deputy Dr Zulkifli Hasan.

Steven Sim is the other minister whose portfolio was swapped from human resources to entrepreneur development and co-operatives.

Those promoted to full ministers were Datuk Seri R. Ramanan who is now human resources minister, Datuk Mustapha Sakmud (minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak), Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup (natural resources and environmental sustainability minister), Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad (plantation and commodities Minister).



Customers at a restaurant in Setapak watching a livestream of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement on the cabinet reshuffle yesterday. NSTP PIC BY HARI ANGGARA

Noraini's deputy is now Datuk Seri Huang Tiong Sii from Gabungan Parti Sarawak.

Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir was chosen to fill the vacancy of economy minister following the resignation of Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli in May.

Anwar said the reshuffle was aimed at ensuring his administration functioned effectively as a team to tackle problems facing the people.

The move, he added was also to drive the country's economic growth.

"As is already known, there were several vacancies in the cabinet, and adjustments were needed to ensure it could work effectively as a team.

"It is also important to focus on generating stronger economic growth and resolving the people's issues," he said during a special press conference to announce the reshuffle yesterday.

The movements were among the 28 appointments and portfolio changes he announced.

There are seven new ministers and eight new deputy ministers.

Aside from the three ministerial portfolio changes, 10 deputy ministerial portfolios were also reassigned.

Anwar said the swearing-in ceremony for the new ministers and deputy ministers, as approved by His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, will take place today at 10am at Istana Negara.

This will be followed by a cabinet meeting at 2.30pm.

The prime minister expressed gratitude to the outgoing ministers and deputy ministers for their contributions and dedication.

Aside from Dr Zaliha, also dropped was K. Saraswathy, who was deputy national unity minister.

Meanwhile, government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the parliamentarians were well-suited with their new portfolios.

He cited as an example the appointments of Dr Taufiq, who is Sungai Petani member of parliament, and Yeoh.

"From my observation, (Dr) Taufiq is very active and full of ideas that can be translated into ensuring that our youth and sports continue to excel," he told reporters at the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission scholarship award ceremony here yesterday.

Fahmi said Yeoh's new role to oversee the federal territories was also perfect given her longstanding involvement in issues affecting Kuala Lumpur residents.

"I still remember when she and I lodged a police report opposing the sale of retention ponds.

"I am confident that sustainable development, including the preservation of these retention ponds, will be among the matters she will scrutinise.

"I believe this is an issue very close to her heart... this (her appointment) is a good choice," he said.

To the outgoing ministers and deputy ministers, Fahmi said he was confident that they would continue to serve well.

"Certainly, the prime minister will consider the best ways for them to continue their services to the country."

The last cabinet reshuffle was on Dec 12, 2023.