

# PM: NO URGENCY FOR CABINET RESHUFFLE

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Govt continues to function as usual despite resignation of two ministers, says Anwar

GISTINA SALLEHUDDIN  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday there is no pressing need for a cabinet reshuffle despite the resignation of two key ministers.

Speaking at the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair, he said Economy Minister Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli and Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad were on leave with his approval.

"There is no urgency for a reshuffle. Two ministers have resigned, and we have given them space to reflect on what they want to do.

"For now, they are on leave with my approval, and I do not think we should pre-empt anything.

"The government continues to function as usual."

He added that interim arrangements were in place, and he would instruct other ministers to temporarily assume the responsibilities of the two portfolios at the next cabinet meeting.

Ministry secretaries-general have also been directed to maintain continuity in administrative



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim watching his grandson, Sulaiman Mohamad Khairul, 13, taking part in an NSTP-MCF mini chess competition at the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

matters, particularly amid negotiations involving Asean, the Gulf Cooperation Council, China and the United States over tariff matters proposed by President Donald Trump.

Rafizi and Nik Nazmi announced their resignations last Wednesday, after losing their respective bids in PKR's central leadership election.

Rafizi, who lost the deputy president's post to Nurul Izzah Anwar, will step down on June 17, while Nik Nazmi, who failed to secure a vice-president post, will vacate his position on July 4.

At the same event, Anwar announced that the government's book voucher initiative would be expanded to include more than 400,000 teachers.

In his keynote address, he said

while book fairs such as KLIFB had gained popularity, the reading culture in Malaysia remained underdeveloped.

Drawing comparisons with Russia, China, Italy and the United Kingdom, he noted how societies that valued knowledge saw it reflected at every level, from scholars to workers.

He expressed concern about Malaysians forming opinions based on social media snippets or hearsay.

"Change cannot come from viral anger or shallow thinking. Reform must be rooted in a culture of knowledge and reflection."

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening intellectual development, citing initiatives such as book vouchers and free book programmes.