

## **Three Ministers. Three Deputy Ministers in Najib's New Cabinet**

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PUTRAJAYA, June 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib on Wednesday announced the appointment of three new full ministers and three deputy ministers comprising Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders from MCA and Gerakan to be in his cabinet.

When announcing the inclusion of the new cabinet members in a media conference at the Bangunan Perdana Putra here, he named MCA President Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai as Transport Minister, Gerakan President Datuk Mah Siew Keong and MCA Deputy President Datuk Wee Ka Siong as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Also chosen to be in the cabinet as deputy ministers are three MCA Vice-Presidents, namely Datuk Lee Chee Leong as Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Chua Tee Yong as Deputy Finance Minister and Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun as Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister.

With the appointment of Liow as transport minister, Najib confirmed that Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein no longer held the post as Acting Transport Minister.

"I am glad MCA representatives are back in the cabinet and Gerakan as well," he said.

Prior to this, MCA had decided not to accept any post at the federal and state levels following its dismal performance in the 13th general election last year but decided to join the cabinet and hold posts in the government after obtaining support of the majority during an extraordinary general meeting last February.

Previously Najib was reported to have said he would appoint Mah as a minister if he won in the Teluk Intan Parliamentary by-election last May 31.

Mah won a 238-majority vote against DAP candidate Dyana Sofya Mohd Daud.

Najib said Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah consented to attend the swearing-in and oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet members on Friday in Istana Negara.

Najib said the inclusion of MCA representatives in the cabinet enhanced the concept of power-sharing on the nation's administration that involved all races in this country.

"The announcement of the new cabinet members is closely related to the government's desire to form a relevant team to lead the people of various races," he said.

Describing the additional cabinet members as "unexpected," he said the expanding size of his cabinet was unavoidable, "At the moment, nobody has volunteer to quit the cabinet...That's a joke only," he said in jest.

Najib was confident that the cabinet could translate the 'Aku Janji' to the people as was promised during the last general election to continue bringing about better progress to the country.

The prime minister said he would also discuss with the new ministers and deputy ministers on the delegation of their respective portfolios and responsibilities.

Najib hoped all the new ministers and deputy ministers would carry out their duties and implement government policies well.

"Bear in mind certain specific responsibilities like making sure our promise to the people will be adhered and executed so that we will continue to uphold the trust of the people," he said.

Najib denied suggestions that he was under pressure to announce the inclusion of the new cabinet members, saying that he needed an appropriate time to announce it.

The BN chairman said he could not make the announcement earlier due to the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 incident and his engagements in national programmes.

Also present at the media conference were Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Ali Hamsa.

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