

Muhyiddin out, Zahid is new Deputy Prime Minister

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By TRP

KUALA LUMPUR, While maintaining his post as Home Minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has replaced Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as Deputy Prime Minister.

The unexpected move was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

He also announced a Cabinet reshuffle which saw seven new ministers and nine new deputy ministers.

Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak has been made the Communication and Multimedia Minister, replacing Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek – who in turn will now head the Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Ministry.

Najib said the changes were made after taking into account political and administrative considerations.

“Ministers have to act as a team in any situation carrying out the development agenda or management of issues that might arise.

“I can accept differences of opinion and criticisms as part of the decision making process, but as members of cabinet differences in opinion should not be made in the public forum where they can erode the public's confidence in the government and the country.

“The decision to replace Muhyiddin was a difficult decision but I had to make it to ensure the cabinet can move as a team.”

Najib added that the reshuffle was made with the purpose of further strengthening the Cabinet before the next General Election.

“This will ensure that my administration remains committed and always focused on national development as promised by us in the 13th GE.

“This is why the Cabinet must act as one solid team under any circumstances, to see through the national development agenda and to manage the issues arising in the country,” he said.

Others dropped in the Cabinet reshuffle are Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Hasan Malek and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Ewon Ebin.

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