

**New Cabinet Line-Up Will Help PM Manage Nation Effectively, Says Academic
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 29 (Bernama) -- A Universiti Utara Malaysia academic has expressed his hope that the new Cabinet line-up announced by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Tuesday would be able to carry the hopes and values aspired by the people, as well as be sensitive to current issues.

Md Shukri Shuib, a senior lecturer in political science and international studies, said the new Cabinet should have the capacity to help the prime minister to manage the country effectively, especially during these times of global economic uncertainty and various issues affecting the nation.

"It's hoped that the new Cabinet will not only act as an engine to manage the nation well but also steer the ruling government towards winning the 14th General Election.

"We also hope that Datuk Seri (Ahmad) Zahid Hamidi, who is now the Deputy Prime Minister, will play a role in bridging the aspirations of the government and the people," he told Bernama.

In yesterday's Cabinet reshuffle, Ahmad Zahid, who is UMNO Vice President, replaced Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as Deputy Prime Minister. Ahmad Zahid, who received the highest number of votes in the vice-presidential category during the party elections in 2013, retains his portfolio as Home Minister.

Besides Muhyiddin, the Cabinet reshuffle, which was telecast live on television, also saw four others being axed and seven new ministers being appointment.

Shukri said Najib's bold move in reshuffling the Cabinet at this point indicated that he would continue to press ahead and was unlikely to withdraw.

"I'm confident that Najib's action is in line with the objective of building a solid and unified team that can manage the nation and bring a new perspective to the Barisan Nasional (BN) government's image in the eyes of the public and at the international-level.

"Najib has introduced new elements in the restructuring of the Cabinet by appointing people who are competent in the fields they specialise in. UMNO and BN leaders and members should accept Najib's new transformational management team with an open mind, as it will help the nation to face a possible global economic crisis," he added.

The new Cabinet involves 25 ministries and a total of 37 ministers, compared with the previous 24 ministries and 32 ministers.

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