

Prime Minister Has The Right To Reshuffle His Cabinet - Mukhriz Mahathir
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ALOR SETAR, July 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has the right to reshuffle the Cabinet and all parties must accept the decision, said Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Mahathir.

He expressed confidence that the Prime Minister's decision must have been made after thorough consideration, with the best interest of the government in mind.

"The Prime Minister has the right to conduct any reshuffle (of the Cabinet) and he used his power to do so yesterday. We must accept any changes," he told reporters here today.

In yesterday's cabinet reshuffle, Najib dropped Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as his deputy and Education Minister and replaced him with Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who kept his portfolio as Home Minister.

Najib also named seven new ministers, dropped four other ministers as well as a deputy minister and appointed new faces as deputy ministers.

Regarding yesterday's meeting with Muhyiddin, Mukhriz said it was an ordinary visit just to thank the former deputy prime minister for his contributions all this while to Kedah.

"During his days as the deputy prime minister as well as the Education minister, many schools and students in Kedah had benefited from the allocation that had been approved by Muhyiddin, he said.

"For that reason, I felt that it is necessary for me to at least, to meet him (Muhyiddin) and convey our thanks for all of his contributions," he said.

The reshuffle also saw the appointment of Kedah-born leaders namely Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid as the new Education Minister and Kubang Pasu member of Parliament Datuk Seri Johari Baharom as Deputy Defence Minister.

Mukhriz thanked the Prime Minister on the appointment of Mahdzir to that post, which is considered as a senior cabinet post and described it as an honour for Kedah.

"It is an important ministry," he said, congratulating Mahdzir, who is a former menteri besar of Kedah.

Asked whether the reshuffle would bring a negative impact to UMNO, Mukhriz said he was not sure about that but believed that the Prime Minister had made an in-depth consideration on it.

"I think the (UMNO) President (Najib) certainly has conducted an in-depth evaluation on

people's reactions and perceptions on the reshuffle, because we are striving to strengthen our position ahead of the 14th general election," he said.

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