

Najib used WhatsApp to decide Cabinet reshuffle, says Pontian Umno chief

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By Md Izwan

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak bypassed the Umno Supreme Council and simply used mobile messaging app WhatsApp to decide whether he should reshuffle the Cabinet, Pontian Umno division chief Datuk Hasni Mohammad said today.

He said on the eve of the reshuffle, the administrator of a WhatsApp group comprising Umno division chiefs asked what they thought of such a move.

"One day before the Cabinet was reshuffled, the division chiefs shared their views over whether it was necessary or not.

"The WhatsApp group administrator said if 150 agreed, the president would do it," Hasi said during the division's annual general meeting this evening.

Hasni criticised such methods, saying that such an important decision should have been discussed at the party's highest levels, the Umno Supreme Council or the state liaison committee.

He said the matter was aggravated by several division chiefs in the WhatsApp group who felt they were superior because of their close ties to Najib.

"Some divisions chiefs had only met the president once or twice. In fact, in the group there are division chiefs who thought they are really big and could punish other division chiefs.

"They can even punish me if my statement offends the president," he said.

Last month's Cabinet reshuffle saw Prime Minister Najib remove his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, and several other ministers from the executive branch of the government, presumably over their criticism over debt-laden 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Hasni said Najib was wrong to have stripped Muhyiddin of his Cabinet post, adding that the decision was unacceptable given Muhyiddin's high post in the party. Muhyiddin is the deputy president of Umno.

"We Johor Umno support the Cabinet reshuffle, but we do not support Tan Sri's removal from the Cabinet.

"We are hurt by Tan Sri's dismissal. We are very hurt." – August 16, 2015.

Source:

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