

'Cabinet reshuffle is prerogative of PM'

KUALA LUMPUR: The decision to reshuffle the cabinet is the prerogative of the prime minister, say cabinet ministers.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong said such a decision should be made by none other than the prime minister.

"If you are the boss, you can make the decision. It is the power of the prime minister to decide. I have no other comment," Liew, who is the Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan) permanent chairman, said in Parliament.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said he would leave it to the prime minister to do the necessary.

"The cabinet members have not discussed this as it was mentioned by the prime minister yesterday (Wednesday) night. I will not comment on the prerogative of the prime minister.

"I will leave it to him to do whatever that (he) feels necessary," he said after launching the AEON Taman Maluri Shopping Centre here yesterday.

Asked on his performance as a minister, Saifuddin said: "I am enjoying what I am doing now. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng is keeping mum on news about the possible cabinet reshuffle.

Asked on the sidelines of the International Social Wellbeing Conference 2019 launch yesterday, Lim said the matter would be discussed soon.

"I have nothing to add because the prime minister has said that.

"We are reading it for the first time and he will discuss with us.

Let's wait for the discussion," Lim said when asked if his party had discussed the matter.

Lim, who is DAP secretary-general, was also asked if he was worried that he would be removed from the cabinet, to which he smiled and replied: "Can we go to the next question?"

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said no one should intervene in the prime minister's decision to reshuffle the cabinet, and he would support such a decision even if it happens tomorrow.

"If the cabinet reshuffle happens tomorrow, I don't mind. That is the power (of the prime minister) and no one should question it. We can't intervene in the power of the prime minister. We can't suggest which minister should be dropped and who to



Datuk Liew Vui Keong

Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail

Lim Guan Eng

replace the person with.

"Leave such matters to the prime minister. If that's what the people have complained to the prime minister, it shows that he listened."

He said cabinet reshuffles had taken place during the Barisan Nasional administration and it was nothing out of the ordinary.

Dr Mahathir had on Wednesday announced the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting next year.

Dr Mahathir, after chairing the Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia supreme council meeting, said the reshuffle would take into consideration the performance and capabilities of ministers.

"It is our opinion that there is a need for a reshuffle in the cabinet.

"I have listened to their (leaders) views following the development on calls to hold a cabinet reshuffle. But (it will) not (happen) today," he was reported as saying.