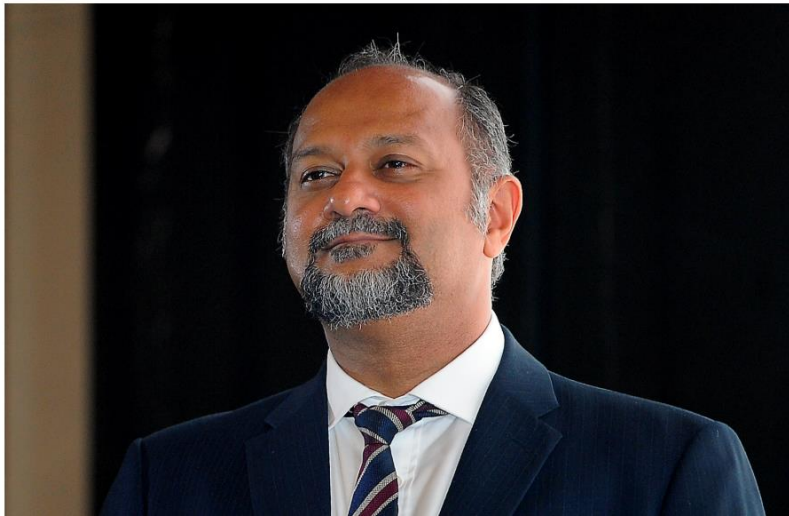




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Gobind to discuss Bernama and RTM top posts with PM



By SHAZNI ONG / Pic By MUHD AMIN NAHARUL

Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo will discuss with Prime Minister (PM) Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide on the candidates who will helm the *Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama)* and *Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM)*.

"At this point in time, I have spoken to the PM about this and I will meet him again soon to discuss (about) it.

"Once we have decided our way forward, then we will make a decision on the respective CEO of *Bernama* and the DG of *RTM*," he told reporters after delivering his keynote address at the Digital Transformation Asia 2018 Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Gobind said no decision has been made yet because the government has to determine whether to proceed with the *Bernama-RTM* merger first.

"I will release a statement. As I said earlier, we have not made a decision on the *Bernama* CEO yet. This is because we are now in the process of considering a merger between the news segments of RTM and *Bernama*.

"If a merger is to take place, then we will need a team which will be able to carry the merger exercise through," he said.

Gobind added that the government has to decide whether or not to go ahead with the merger first, as the restructuring process would involve in getting a team of people together.

"I have travelled to many countries and looked at different models that they have...I am in the process of putting up a proposal to the Cabinet," he added.

Last week, former editor-in-chief of The Rocket and veteran newsman Wan Hamidi Hamid announced that he will not be made the top post of *Bernama*.



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"After being a target of lies, unfair condemnations and personal attacks for quite some time, I have been informed that I would not be appointed as *Bernama's* CEO. This is despite being initially offered, persuaded and convinced to accept this job at the national news agency," he said in a Facebook posting.

The comment from Wan Hamidi came as a surprise since he was strongly tipped to be the leading contender for the post of CEO at the state-owned news agency.

Prior to this, *The Malaysian Reserve* reported that Wan Hamidi was expected to succeed outgoing Datuk Zulkefli Salleh, who retired after completing his extended contract last month.

According to sources, Wan Hamidi was expected to assume the position in mid-October. Datuk Zakaria Abd Wahab is currently the acting *Bernama* CEO.

Wan Hamidi's expected appointment, which was said to be endorsed by Gobind, had drew backlash from certain quarters, including former Information, Communications and Culture Minister Tan Sri Rais Yatim.

Earlier on in his keynote address, Gobind announced that his ministry, along with the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit and the Personal Data Protection Department, is planning to develop an open data exchange platform to allow the public to have access on government data and also to encourage the industry to share data too.

Meanwhile, Gobind said he is leaving the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) to resolve a recent dispute between MYTV Broadcasting Sdn Bhd and Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM).

"MCMC has been in discussion with MYTV and also with TM. I think MCMC is in the process of coming up with a statement and looking for a solution.

"I will let MCMC to deal with it and let them announce whatever solutions that are good. We have been able to identify the problem and we are trying to see how we can move ahead," he said.

It was reported that MYTV claimed its dispute with TM had caused the suspension of its broadcast in several states.

As such, MYTV had urged the MCMC to step in and help resolve the dispute.