

China to set up five new 'super ministries'

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China will set up five new "super ministries" in the current round of government institutional restructuring, and a plan for the reshuffle will be submitted to the National People's Congress (NPC), or parliament, for deliberation on Tuesday afternoon.

According to the plan, which was distributed to journalists before the parliament meeting, the five new "super ministries" are the ministry of industry and information, the ministry of human resources and social security, the ministry of environmental protection, the ministry of housing and urban-rural construction, and the ministry of transport.

To strengthen the government management on the energy sector, a high-level inter-ministerial coordinator, the national energy commission, is also to be established, with a national bureau of energy to be set up as its working office under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The new bureau will integrate the NDRC's functions relating to energy management, the functions of the National Energy Leading Group and the functions of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense on nuclear power management.

The State Council will have 27 ministries and commissions apart from the General Office after the reshuffle, compared with the present 28.

State Councilor Hua Jianmin, also secretary general of the Cabinet, will make explanations of the plan to the NPC.

On the necessity of the reform, Hua says in the report that functions of government have not been completely transformed, with public administration and public services being still weak; Structure of government institutions is not rational enough; Powers in some regards were too concentrated and lack due oversight and checks. State Councilor Hua Jianmin, also secretary general of the Cabinet, will make explanations of the plan to the NPC, China's top legislature.

Hua lists the reasons for the government reshuffle as follows:

- The functions of government have not been completely transformed, and the intervention in microeconomy is still more than needed. Public administration and public services are still weak.
- Structure of government institutions is not rational enough. The problems including overlapping responsibilities, powers and responsibilities being not well matched and low efficiency are quite serious.
- Powers in some regards were too concentrated and lack due oversight and checks. The phenomena of misuse of authority, abusing power for personal gains and corruption still exist. (Xinhua)

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