

Dr M meets the King over DPM's post?

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. (P)
Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met the Yang di-Pertuan Agong this morning and it is believed that one of the matters discussed was the appointment of a Deputy Prime Minister.

However, Dr Mahathir declined to comment on speculations that he will announce the appointment of his deputy next week.

Asked about his meeting with the King, Dr Mahathir said: "I meet him all the time. Maybe we discussed the matter."

Dr Mahathir normally meets the King after the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesdays.

To a question if he would announce the appointment soon, Dr Mahathir said: "Maybe."

Pressed for a more definitive answer, Dr Mahathir said: "The announcement will be made anytime

between now and when the appointment is made. You can continue to speculate."

Dr Mahathir also declined to comment on a statement by PAS president Haji Yusoff Rawa that the party would not have any more dialogues with Umno if it (Umno) was insincere.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, met Haji Yusoff, PAS deputy president Ustaz Fadzil Noor and PAS treasurer Syed Ibrahim Abdul Rahman early last month to discuss matters pertaining to Islam and on means to diffuse tension between the two parties.

Haji Yusoff claimed yesterday that Umno Youth president Anwar Ibrahim, who also attended the meeting, was using it to further his own political ambition.

He said that PAS was agreeable to more such meetings but would not attend if Umno's sincerity was in doubt.