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MAHATHIR-GHAFAR
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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 26 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE WILL BE NO ACTING PRIME MINISTER WHEN HE ATTENDS THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN MANILA NEXT MONTH.

+I WILL BE IN MANILA ONLY BRIEFLY AND WILL BE IN CONSTANT TOUCH. NO ONE WILL BE ACTING IN MY PLACE DURING MY ABSENCE,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING A QUALITY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR HERE.

THE MANILA MEETING IS SCHEDULED FROM DEC 14 TO 15.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO A QUESTION AS TO WHEN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA, WHO IS NOW ON LEAVE FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL CORONARY BYPASS OPERATION IN LONDON, WILL RETURN TO WORK.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: +HE NEEDS A HOLIDAY AND A LONG REST... AND I HAVE GIVEN HIM LEAVE UNTIL NEXT YEAR. *LET HIM RECOVER FULLY AND AFTER THAT HE CAN RETURN TO WORK ANYTIME.+ -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO DISMISSED TALK OF AN IMPENDING CABINET RESHUFFLE.

+THERE WON'T BE ANY RESHUFFLE.+

HE ALSO SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHEN LABOUR MINISTER LEE KIM SAI, WHO IS MCA DEPUTY PRESIDENT? WILL RETURN FROM OVERSEAS. ENCIK LEE LEFT THE COUNTRY LATE LAST MONTH. -- SERNAMA
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