

PM: Line-up being finalised after hearing views of BN component parties

# New Cabinet by week's end

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By Jeffrey Ramayah

**KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will announce his new Cabinet, which will see the inclusion of several new faces, by the end of the week.**

The Prime Minister said he was in the process of finalising his line-up after taking into consideration the views and suggestions of Barisan Nasional component party leaders whom he met yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said he met the leaders individually to allow them to suggest candidates for positions in the Government.

"They have put forward their candidates for Minister, Deputy Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's posts.

"I am in the process of going through their proposals," he told reporters after attending the 25th anni-

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versary celebrations of Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad here tonight.

Elaborating on the new Cabinet, he said Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen and Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Amar Stephen Yong who lost in the general election will not be included. Deputy Ministers and a Parliamentary Secretary who lost will not be in the new line-up either.

"However, we cannot rule out any possibility," he said when asked whether those who lost might be appointed Senators and be included in the new Cabinet.

Dr Mahathir said MIC president Datuk Seri S.

Samy Vellu had requested two ministerial positions for his party instead of the previous allocation of a Minister and two Deputy Ministers' posts.

He said he had yet to decide on the request.

Dr Mahathir said he briefed Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah this morning on the success of the Barisan Nasional in the election.

"I also briefed the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the problems we faced which led to the Kelantan Government falling into the hands of the Opposition."

Dr Mahathir was pleased to learn that the Gerakan had agreed to lead the Penang State Government with one of its Assemblymen as the Chief Minister.

"Initially, Gerakan leaders had doubts about leading the Penang Government because the people did not appreciate the services of Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu and his Government which had brought great development to the State over the last 20 years.

"We are relieved to hear that they (the Gerakan) will accept the Chief Minister's post although they won only seven State seats," he said.

On whether Umno, which has 12 State Assemblymen in Penang, would be allowed to fill the position of Deputy to the Chief Minister, Dr Mahathir said the matter was now being discussed at the State Barisan Nasional level.

On the statement by Kelantan Menteri Besar Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat that the Pas Government was prepared to work with the Federal Government, Dr Mahathir said he wondered why the party did not take such a stand before polling day.

Asked to comment on the resignation of Mr Lim Kit Siang as DAP secretary-general, the Prime Minister said it was another *sandiwara* (shadow play) by the opposition leader.

"We all know that his party leaders and members would appeal to him to change his mind and I believe he will return to the party helm after great persuasion."

"This trick is not new to us," he said.