

aae

Mahathir-Cabinet

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1, (Bernama) — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today dismissed the possibility that the Cabinet would be reshuffled in the light of the outcome of party elections for the posts of vice-presidents in Umno. The Prime Minister also said that it did not necessarily follow that a person elected vice-president must hold a position in government.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, did not elaborate.

He was speaking to a newsman who asked for his comments on the outcome of the race for the three vice-president's posts during a break at the Umno general assembly which entered its second day today at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Former Defence Minister, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who retained his post as a vice-president, is the only one who does not hold a government position.

The other two vice-presidents elected were incumbent Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is Education Minister, and Agriculture Minister, Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid.

On the absence of a Menteri Besar or Chief Minister in the vice-president rank, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno did not take into account which group a leader was elected from so long as he received the full confidence of the delegates. -- more

♥01/12/12-43MST

aae

Mahathir-Cabinet 2 Kuala Lumpur

He added: +We don't have a Menteri Besar as representative (for vice-president). Whether we are Menteri Besar or a person with or without government position, from the north or from the south, that does not matter.

+Umno is one. Which area or which group the leader comes from is not important. So long as they are given full confidence by the delegates, they are Umno leaders.+

He said it was a coincidence that the three vice-presidents elected came from the states in the north.

+It is a coincidence. We cannot say there must be a representative from the south, east or west. They are considered by the delegates as leaders of Umno,+ he added.

Datuk Seri Anwar and Datuk Abdullah are from Pulau Pinang and Datuk Seri Sanusi is from Kedah.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the voting trend this time had reverted to what it was previously because the sentiment was not for personalities but for the interest of the party.

He added the delegates had made a wise choice without any interference.

He said: +They weighed between the old and the new. They were able to identify new talents and gave them a chance although there were not too many.

+More of the old were retained and new ones were added. This is the Umno way. -- more

♥01/12/12-49MST

R PE 01-12 00123 EA282

aae

Mahathir-Cabinet 3 Kuala Lumpur

+If they are disturbed with bad ways, certainly Umno members will be confused and they will make a decision that is not good.

+This time, they made a good decision and I congratulate the delegates.+

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was confident that all those elected would be able to cooperate with one another although there had been allegations, although not so apparent, that they could not do so.

+I am confident that Umno will close ranks and support those who have been elected,+ he added

His advise to the losers was to accept the results and continue to give their support to the victors. -- Bernama

♥01/12/12-51MST