

26 NOV 1996

MAHATHIR SAYS NO RESHUFFLE OF CABINET

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today quashed speculation of a Cabinet reshuffle, saying that "things are still as usual".

"We are not forming a new Cabinet. There will be no reshuffle. No changes, no nothing...so it's a very dull kind of a press conference," the Prime Minister told a packed news conference at his office here to announce the government's sponsorship of the British Stewart-Ford racing team for next year's Formula One World Championship.

The media had turned up in full force at the news conference amid speculation the Prime Minister might announce a Cabinet reshuffle following last month's Umno elections.

Dr Mahathir had earlier requested journalists, including the foreign media, to confine questions to Formula One racing during the question-and-answer session.

The one-year sponsorship of the Formula One racing team will help project Malaysia's image internationally, said the Prime Minister.

Later, as the Prime Minister was leaving his office, a foreign woman journalist persisted in asking for his comment on the position of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz in the Cabinet.

"The idea comes from you. Are you so bankrupt that you cannot think of something else?" Dr Mahathir said, declining to comment any further. --
BERNAMA

MOK TCL CTL