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Mahathir-Cabinet

PM PARRIES QUESTION ON POSSIBLE CABINET RESHUFFLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a Cabinet reshuffle could be carried out at any time deemed necessary.

"Actually, I can reshuffle the Cabinet at any time," he said at a news conference after opening the TV3 operation centre, Sri Pentas, in Bandar Utama here.

Replying to a question on when he proposed to reshuffle the Cabinet since the Umno Supreme Council election had been concluded, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know. That is the Umno election, not the Cabinet."

He said he is not bound by the results of leadership elections in Umno, MCA, MIC or Gerakan in deciding on a Cabinet reshuffle.

In jest, he added: "When I am reminded that I have to drop Tok Mat (Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat), I can drop him."

On Umno, Dr Mahathir who is the party president said he has not made any decision on appointments to the Umno Supreme Council.

Under the party constitution, the president is allowed to appoint 10 ordinary members to the council.

He said he has also not decided on a date for the newly-elected council to hold its first meeting.

Asked who among the party's prominent personalities he thought would qualify to be considered for appointment, he said: "There are several names which have crossed my mind. (They have) crossed from one side to another. Like they say, it came from the left ear and come out at the right ear. Anything is possible. I can do anything good for the party."

On changes in the organisational structure of Umno Youth, Dr Mahathir said the measures were taken by the youth wing's new leadership and he saw no reason why they should be opposed.

Asked on the task given to Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to supervise the movement, he said it was necessary to streamline the youth wing with the main party. -- BERNAMA

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