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Mahathir-Kedah

I DON'T NEED TO STATE REASON FOR ORDERING RESIGNATION: PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he does not need to give any reason if he wants a leader to resign.

The Prime Minister said he has sometimes asked certain people to resign or they themselves decide to resign.

In the case of Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, Dr Mahathir refused to confirm or deny Osman's statement that he resigned from the post on the Prime Minister's order.

Dr Mahathir said he has not decided whether to accept Osman's resignation, or on a new Kedah Menteri Besar.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the "MAS Aerotechnologies" maintenance service at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang, near here.

Asked if he had resorted to using force to get Osman to resign, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know about force. There's no specific reason to do that, it's just that we sometimes replace people."

Asked about the possibility of a new Menteri Besar, he said that was his prerogative.

"I myself don't know when I'm going to announce it, probably quite soon," he added.

He said the matter was not discussed at a meeting he had at his office this morning with seven Kedah state assemblymen.

The seven assemblymen were reported to have pledged their loyalty to the Prime Minister with regards to the appointment of the new Menteri Besar.

Suggested that such a meeting is rarely held, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know if it is rare or not, sometimes the newspapers know first. For instance, (about replacing Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Finance Minister) the press knew before I even thought of it. They can read my mind in the future."

The Prime Minister said he would meet some other Kedah state assemblymen at his office tomorrow. -- BERNAMA

AFY ZAB SK