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NO CABINET RESHUFFEL YET, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

By: E.Sivabalan

GABORONE, May 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said he has no plans yet to reshuffle his Cabinet but will appoint a new minister to replace Datuk Abu Hassan Omar who has been appointed Selangor Menteri Besar.

He said the only thing he had to do was to fill the post left vacant by Abu Hassan, who was the Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs.

Speaking to Malaysian reporters here last night, Dr Mahathir who arrived here yesterday, for an official visit to Botswana, however said he was in no hurry to fill the vacancy.

Last Friday, Dr Mahathir said he picked Abu Hassan to replace Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib because he wanted to choose the right successor, "somebody who is clean and capable."

When asked if he would make additional changes to his Cabinet, the Prime Minister said: "I don't think so."

However, he did not rule out the question of making changes to the Cabinet later.

"I don't want to say something that might later on be regarded as myself not speaking the truth."

"But at the moment, I have no wish to change anything," he added. --

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