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Cabinet meeting today may discuss `shocking' measures

PENANG, Mon. - A special Cabinet meeting will be held in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Several ministers who were met after the National Day parade today confirmed they would be attending the meeting. However, they declined to say more.

The Cabinet meets weekly on Wednesdays. However, there have been a few occasions where special meetings were held to discuss specific topics, such as the Budget, on days other than Wednesdays.

Ministers who had earlier arranged programmes for tomorrow have either cancelled or postponed them to attend this meeting.

It is learnt that tomorrow's meeting will likely discuss the present economic situation, endorse the actions taken so far to speed up economic recovery and work out new areas of action.

It is also possible, said a source, that Dr Mahathir might unveil to the Cabinet the "shocking" measures he had been talking about recently.

About two weeks ago, Dr Mahathir called on the people to be prepared to support several measures, including some "shocking" ones, that will be taken by the Government.

He has mentioned the Government's intention to introduce certain "shocking" measures again on a couple of occasions since then but has yet to state what they are.

Dr Mahathir had said the "shocking" measures were needed because the economy was sliding further and the Government did not want to seek aid from other countries. He had said that even if the measures to be announced might be "shocking", their purpose was to revive the economy.

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