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Cabinet line-up to have new faces, says Dr M

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad confirmed that fresh faces will make up his new Cabinet line-up following the 10th general elections.

"I suppose there must be fresh faces because some of the ministers did not win and some did not contest in the elections," he said at the sidelines of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) 1999 show in Langkawi yesterday.

Four ministers and four deputy ministers lost their seats during the elections while one did not contest. The four ministers are Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayub, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa and Minister in the Prime Ministers Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

The four deputy ministers were Datuk Idris Jusoh (Entrepreneur Development), Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali (Prime Minister's Department), Tengku Datuk Mahmud Mansor (Agriculture) and Datuk Abdul Bakar Daud (Science Technology and Environment).

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek resigned his post while Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha did not contest in the elections.

When asked on the fate of Mustapa in the Cabinet, Dr Mahathir said: "I have not thought about it. I have been busy looking at aircraft."

The Prime Minister had a full schedule yesterday. Following a naval fleet review in the morning, he opened the Lima 1999 aerospace and maritime conferences.

After touring the maritime exhibition in the morning, Dr Mahathir visited booths at the aerospace segment.

He also launched the Malaysian Aerospace Industries Association and witnessed the signing ceremony of four contracts and a partnership between local and foreign aerospace companies.

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