

17 MAY 1999

DR MAHATHIR STAYS MUM ON CABINET RESHUFFLE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad remained tight-lipped over talk of a minor Cabinet reshuffle this week, dismissing them as mere rumours.

"These are rumours...you know they (the press/analysts) can speculate on anything and sometimes what they say can happen," he said.

Reporters asked him about this at a press conference after the prime minister opened the 21st World Ports Conference here today.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik hinted on Saturday that there could be cabinet reshuffle today or tomorrow.

Referring to earlier press prediction of an imminent general election, Dr Mahathir quipped: "If it is not the next month, then it is the month after and if it is not the month after, then it is the month after that, one day you are going to hit it."

"So you can have your rumours, I cannot confirm anything," he said.

On whether there would be an impending cabinet reshuffle, Dr Mahathir said: "Sometime or other we will have a cabinet reshuffle, maybe before the election or after the election.

"Sure, there will be a cabinet reshuffle, that's part of the games we play."

-- BERNAMA

GM RYN