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Mahathir-Last

IT'S MOST LIKELY MY LAST TERM, SAYS MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that this may most likely be his last term in office as Prime Minister.

He said although some people have asked him to "continue forever", it was a little bit difficult.

"Most likely (my last term), because next term, I will be near to 80 years old, I will be having less sleep, failing eyesight and all that, cannot see, so this'll be my last term," he said smilingly when asked by reporters whether this would be his last term.

Dr Mahathir, who has been prime minister for 18 years, had earlier announced his new Cabinet line-up at a news conference here, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Cabinet line-up saw nine new ministers, including former Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, who was named Education Minister, succeeding Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Musa, who did not contest in last month's general election, will be appointed a senator before taking the appointment.

Najib, has been named Defence Minister, a post he formerly held before being appointed Education Minister in the last Cabinet line-up.

-- BERNAMA

AFY RYN