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Mahathir-Cabinet

THERE WILL BE NEW FACES IN THE CABINET, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- There will be new faces in the Cabinet line-up to replace ministers who lost in the recently-concluded general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"I think there must be fresh faces because some of the Ministers did not win and some didn't stand for the election," the Prime Minister said in reply to questions at a news conference at the Lima '99 Show.

"Obviously we have to replace them," he said after launching the Malaysian Aerospace Industries Association (MAIA), at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, here.

The four ministers defeated in Monday's general election were Second Finance Minister and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Abdul Hamid Othman and Domestic Trade and Consumers Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob.

Datuk Lim Ah Lek (Human Resources) and Abang Abu Bakar Mustaffa (Defence) did not seek re-election while Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali (Minister in the Prime Minister's Department) contested a Perak state seat.

On Mustapa's future, Dr Mahathir said: "I have not thought about it...I have been busy looking at aircraft".

Earlier, during a tour of Malaysian aerospace companies at the show, the Prime Minister successfully landed a PC-7 turbo prop aircraft at the Langkawi International Airport. He was in the cockpit of a computerised image simulator.

The six-day Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) exposition began on Nov 30. The maritime segment is organised by HW LIMA while the aerospace sector is being managed by LIMA Le Proton.

The show, which attracted some 1,000 local, regional and international companies, was opened yesterday by Dr Mahathir.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon are expected to meet Dr Mahathir later tonight regarding the formation of their respective state governments.

They are expected to meet Dr Mahathir during a private dinner at a hotel, here.

Meanwhile, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, when met here today, said he would meet Dr Mahathir in Putrajaya on Monday to discuss the state's new government.

-- BERNAMA

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