

18 DEC 2000
Mahathir-Reshuffle
DR MAHATHIR HINTS OF MINOR RESHUFFLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he will make a minor reshuffle involving members of the government's administration.

The prime minister said that it would not be a major reshuffle affecting Cabinet ministers.

"There's not going to be a reshuffle, just some changes, maybe with new people coming in...that may take place.

"Sometimes we do make adjustments like those of parliamentary secretaries...that's all. That's not the Cabinet but members of the administration," he told reporters after the breaking of the fast organised by Wisma Putra, here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the front page report of today's Utusan Malaysia of a Cabinet reshuffle, expected to involve changes of 50 per cent of members of the Cabinet, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries.

According to the news report, the reshuffle, to be announced very soon, is expected to feature the re-establishment of a Law Ministry with its minister to also be appointed as attorney-general.

"I do not know anything at all...they speculate on Tengku Adnan (Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor) becoming senator. So they (Utusan) think by becoming senator, he (Tengku Adnan) will surely be in the Cabinet and we will have a Cabinet reshuffle.

"I only know from the Utusan...you'll have to ask the Utusan," he said.

Asked when the minor reshuffle would be conducted, Dr Mahathir said: "There's no hurry...there's plenty of time, God willing".

The prime minister, when asked whether a Cabinet reshuffle needed to be conducted now, said that he did not see a necessity but admitted that there was an increasing volume of work.

Asked whether there were Cabinet ministers asking to be dropped, the prime minister said that not one of them had asked to be dropped.

"I have no plans to make changes among the ministers. I certainly do have good ministers," he said.

Asked whether he intends to set up a new ministry and appoint a new minister, Dr Mahathir said: "It hasn't crossed my mind to have another. We already have so many (ministries)...our government administration is big".

On whether he will fill the vacant post of parliamentary secretary to the Information Ministry in the minor reshuffle, Dr Mahathir said: "Maybe, maybe".

Earlier, he had a closed-door dialogue which lasted an hour with Muslim heads of foreign mission before breaking fast with them. Present were senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

-- BERNAMA

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