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Mahathir-Reshuffle

MAHATHIR QUASHES RUMOURS OF IMPENDING CABINET RESHUFFLE

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he does not plan to reshuffle his Cabinet in the near future.

"I don't think so," he said when asked to respond to rumours of an impending Cabinet reshuffle in the near future.

Speaking to Bernama in an exclusive interview at the Prime Minister's Department here today, Dr Mahathir said he does not understand why there was an impression that some Cabinet Ministers were not performing.

"I find that they have been given trust and they are carrying out their tasks.

"So, I am not the person who just solve problems by sacking people. I don't do that whether in my office or in the Cabinet," the prime minister said.

This is the second time Dr Mahathir has made remarks about a possible Cabinet reshuffle since the Utusan Malaysia daily reported on Dec 18 that some 50 per cent of members of the Cabinet, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries would be involved in the reshuffle.

Responding to the Utusan report then, Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying that there would not be a major Cabinet reshuffle but only a minor reshuffle involving members of the government's administration.

During the hour-long interview conducted by Bernama Editor-in-Chief Jaafar Hussin, Dr Mahathir answered wide-ranging questions covering politics, economy and the mastery of the English language, especially for the K-economy.

The panelists were Bernama Executive Editor Azman Ujang and Assistant Editor E.Sivabalan.

Dr Mahathir said if he found that the people who were working with him do not perform, it would be his fault.

"If I don't get them to perform, then it is my fault," he said.

Saying that he knew his ministers very well, the prime minister said that they always have in-depth discussions at each Cabinet meeting.

"If I can't extract the maximum from each minister, then I will be failing in my work and if I fail in my work, you must see in the whole country what happens," he said.

On calls within and outside Umno that he should change his style of leadership following Barisan Nasional's narrow defeat in the recent Lunas by-election, Dr Mahathir who is Umno president said he did not know what was the change that they expected from him.

Dr Mahathir said what he does know was that most of the things that he did were not very well understood, especially in the decision-making process.

"Many people think that I make all the decisions by myself. But they are not based on my own decisions, but they are made in the Cabinet," Dr Mahathir said.

In the case of Umno, they were made by the Supreme Council and there was full and unrestricted discussions before any decision was made, he said.

"So, even if I change my style of leadership, if the others won't change it's not going to make any difference," Dr Mahathir added.

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