

Cabinet reshuffle will not be disruptive, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Cabinet reshuffle will not be a major or disruptive one, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"You know me, I don't just sack people. That's very disruptive. Imagine if you go back to your office and your boss says you are sacked, how would you feel?" said the Prime Minister.

Asked whether this meant that current ministers would be retained in the new line-up, Dr Mahathir said: "You wait-lah."

Pressed further about the reshuffle, he said he expected it to be made "Insyah Allah (God Willing), before the Chinese New Year."

He denied that the delay in announcing the line-up was because the decision was a difficult one.

"It is not difficult at all. But I am pressed for time. I am spinning like a top. I don't have much (free) time even in the office ... You know how busy I am. I was in the office today for an hour and even then, people came to see me..."

"I haven't had the time to think about it (reshuffle)," he added.

To a question, he said there would be no new ministries formed with the proposed reshuffle because "I am satisfied with the present set-up."

He was speaking at a press conference after a National Unity and Social Development Hari Raya open house.

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Earlier, Dr Mahathir had an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, fueling speculation that he had handed over a list of the proposed new Cabinet line-up for the Royal Assent.

The Prime Minister, however, denied this.

"I met the Agong because I wanted to see his gallery and we had lunch together."

Dr Mahathir was also asked about the absence of Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman at her ministry's Hari Raya gathering.

He denied that Dr Siti Zaharah, who has been speculated to be dropped from the new line-up, stayed away because "she merajuk (was sulking)."

"No, no. She is really sick," he said.