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Ling-Cabinet

CABINET RESHUFFLE SOLELY UP TO PM, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet, at its weekly meeting today, did not discuss about any reshuffle, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had not given any indication at the weekly meeting about his intention to reshuffle the Cabinet.

"None of us has been given the idea...no more comment," Dr Ling, who is MCA president, told reporters at his office at the Transport Ministry after the Cabinet meeting at Putrajaya.

Dr Mahathir, on his return from a five-day visit to Myanmar yesterday, confirmed that a Cabinet reshuffle was imminent and that he needed time to deliberate on the matter and hoped it would be announced soon.

Dr Ling joked that nobody would dare ask Dr Mahathir on the matter as they could end up with a surprise.

"We won't ask him, because he might surprise us. You know...he could say "You (dropped)", " quipped Dr Ling.

Asked whether he has been consulted on the reshuffle in his capacity as a Barisan Nasional component leader, he said: "No comment".

Dr Ling said that the prime minister has the prerogative to reshuffle his Cabinet and it would be totally up to him to decide.

"We are here because of the prime minister. It is solely the prerogative of the prime minister. Whatever the prime minister chooses us to do, we will say thank you very much," Dr Ling said.

He also said the Cabinet had expressed their appreciation to Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Abdul Hamid Othman who has announced his resignation as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (in charge of Islamic affairs), a post he served for 10 years.

"We believe his leaving the Cabinet doesn't mean that he would stop serving the nation, and we believe he will continue serving...", Dr Ling said.

Dr Abdul Hamid announced his resignation on Jan 5 and that he had tendered his resignation letter to the prime minister two days earlier.

-- BERNAMA

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