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`Reshuffle unnecessary for appointment'

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the appointment of a Finance Minister may not necessarily involve a Cabinet reshuffle as he can select a candidate who is not a Minister.

Agreeing that the post was a key portfolio, he said, "I can appoint anybody.

"It does not necessarily have to be a Minister."

Dr Mahathir was responding to a question on whether the appointment of a new Finance Minister would lead to changes in the government. Asked again on the departure of former Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, he said it was not the first time Daim had left the government. He said his explanation about Daim had been simple and there was nothing mysterious about it (his resignation), nor was there a quarrel between them.

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