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Mahathir-Reshuffle

GUESSING GAME ON CABINET RESHUFFLE CONTINUES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- The guessing game on the cabinet reshuffle continues when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not make any announcement today as expected by the media.

The prime minister, when asked when he would announce the reshuffle, said: "When I reshuffle, I announce."

Speaking at a media conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting, here, the Umno president said he did not discuss the reshuffle at the meeting.

Local and foreign reporters had turned up in full force expecting Dr Mahathir to announce the reshuffle.

The prime minister had announced the reshuffle of his cabinet after a meeting of the Umno supreme council in early 1999.

Dr Mahathir had confirmed that a cabinet reshuffle was imminent upon his return from a three-day visit to Myanmar last Tuesday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman had announced on Jan 5 this year that he had sent his letter of resignation to Dr Mahathir before the prime minister left for Myanmar.

Asked today whether the reshuffle would also involve mentris besar, Dr Mahathir said in jest: "Reshuffle everything, I want to do whatever the Press wants."

He said he did not inform the Umno supreme council meeting about the reshuffle because it had nothing to do with the cabinet.

"The supreme council members have been informed by the press about the reshuffle because they read the newspapers," he said, referring to the speculations by the newspapers on the reshuffle.

-- BERNAMA

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