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`Dr M normally consults BN leaders before reshuffle'

Eirmalasare Bani

TRANSPORT Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would normally consult all leaders of the Barisan Nasional component parties before a Cabinet reshuffle.

"Normally yes. The Prime Minister would normally want to consult the party leaders so that it will not be inadvertently destabilised," he told reporters before chairing the ministry's weekly meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Ling, who is also the MCA president, however declined to say whether or not he has been consulted by the Prime Minister on the matter.

He also refused to comment on whether Dr Mahathir has given any indication of a Cabinet reshuffle or which ministry will be affected by the changes.

"The Cabinet today only thanked Datuk Seri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman for his contribution to the country through his services in the Cabinet. We believe that quitting the Cabinet does not mean he will stop serving the nation... maybe in different roles," he added.

He also said no one asked the Prime Minister about the issue during the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

"No. We won't ask him because he may surprise us, you know. This is such a sensitive question... sometimes no news is good news," he added.

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