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Mahathir-Last/BM

MAYBE NOT THE LAST BUDGET FOR DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the 2003 Budget which he tabled today may not be his last before his retirement in October next year.

"I will be tabling the budget next year, hopefully," he told a media conference after tabling the 2003 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat.

The prime minister was asked whether this will be the last time he is tabling the budget in view of his announcement that he is retiring in October next year.

He said that as his retirement would only take effect in October next year, he still had the opportunity to table the 2004 budget which might be held earlier.

"As you know, it's still September and I am presenting the budget. Next year the budget will probably be just as early, (or) might be earlier because of the fasting month," he said.

Asked whether he proposed to appoint a new finance minister, Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said he had not thought about it.

"You keep on reminding me. I haven't thought about it. Applicants are welcome," he said.

-- BERNAMA

TM JK