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DR MAHATHIR KEEPS MUM ON NEW TRANSPORT MINISTER

PUTRAJAYA, June 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today kept mum over the appointment of a new transport minister following the resignation of Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Asked by reporters on the matter after chairing the fourth and final session of the 2004 Budget dialogue here, he said: "God willing, certainly, if there's nothing in the way, we'll make the appointment."

Queried whether he had made a decision, he said coyly: "I'll have to consult the press, which one do you think (is a suitable person)?"

When pointed out that he had promised to name the person after his recent week-long trip to Japan and France, Dr Mahathir said in jest: "I have come back but I didn't say immediately or three days after."

Dr Mahathir returned home on Friday.

Dr Ling stepped down as MCA president on May 23 after 17 years, and a week later Dr Mahathir accepted his resignation from his Cabinet post.

-- BERNAMA

SHI MAM RM