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Mahathir-Reshuffle

PM TO DECIDE ON CABINET RESHUFFLE ON RETURN FROM OVERSEAS TRIP

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he will only decide on a Cabinet reshuffle on his return from his overseas trip next month.

Dr Mahathir said that he had received a list of MCA candidates who were qualified to fill the post vacated by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik from MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

Asked whether the Cabinet reshuffle will only affect MCA leaders, he said: "Maybe, but wouldn't dare say much as I haven't thought about it yet."

He was asked by reporters on the cabinet reshuffle and the successor to Dr Ling after attending a Workers Day 2003 gathering of public sector employees at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) in Bukit Kiara here.

Dr Mahathir said that Ong, who is Housing and Local Government Minister, was now carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Transport Minister but it did not mean that he would assume the post.

The Prime Minister said that the reshuffle to be announced would ensure that the government was more efficient.

"I'll find people who can serve. I don't change my Cabinet that often because I've confidence (in the Cabinet), not like other countries who always reshuffle (the Cabinet)," he said.

Asked whether he will discuss the upcoming new Cabinet arrangement with his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he said: "I'm not someone who makes decisions without consulting as many people as possible and it's not necessary I'll follow other people's views, but normally I'll ask people," he said.

Dr Mahathir leaves tomorrow for Evian, France, to attend the Broader Informal Dialogue of the G8 Summit on Sunday. He departs for Tokyo on Monday for a working visit until Friday.

-- BERNAMA

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