

# Cabinet reshuffle: Abdullah keeps them guessing

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SERDANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday kept his cards close to his chest when answering questions on the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle following the appointment of Umno information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib as a senator last week.

"Can you tell me when is the best date?" he asked in jest when queried by reporters on the matter after opening the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agro-Tourism Show (Maha) 2006 at Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia here.

On Muhammad's appointment, Abdullah said he deserved to be a senator.

Apart from Muhammad's appointment, talk about an imminent Cabinet reshuffle surfaced due to the expiry of the senator's term of Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yacop at the end of January

next year.

Under the regulations, a senator can be re-appointed for another three-year term.

Nor Mohamed was drafted into Abdullah's Cabinet on Jan 9, 2004. This is the minister's first term as a senator.

Later, opening the Eurocopter Malaysia Regional Maintenance Centre at Terminal Two of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, Abdullah said the aerospace industry had been identified as a new growth area.

While the industry was progressing smoothly, Abdullah said Malaysia was keen to further develop its aerospace industry as an engine of growth in the future.

He said with proper strategic planning and implementation, the aerospace industry could be developed to generate spin-offs for other technology-based industries in Malaysia. — Bernama