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'NO CABINET RESHUFFLE IN NEAR FUTURE'

Unfair to compare ministers, says prime minister

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PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has once again reiterated that there is no need for a Cabinet reshuffle presently.

"There is no Cabinet reshuffle because we want to give them (ministers) a chance to improve themselves," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, said this when asked if a reshuffle was on the cards after the party's annual general meeting (AGM) ended tomorrow.

He said it was unfair to make a



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaking at an interview in Putrajaya recently. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

performance comparison of ministers in the Pakatan Harapan government.

"Who are we comparing against? Are we comparing against Najib?" he asked referring to former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Dr Mahathir was speaking in an

interview with senior editors of local news organisations at his office in Putrajaya recently.

On Nov 13, Dr Mahathir, in an interview with Singapore's *Straits Times*, said he was open to a reshuffle should he receive new candidate suggestions from PKR.

At the time, PKR had just concluded its party polls.

Since then, there has been no reshuffle, and it is now Bersatu's turn to hold its AGM, but it will not be holding party polls.

Previously, talk was rife that former senior Umno leader

Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, now a Bersatu member, might be included in the Cabinet.

Asked if he would continue to lead Bersatu when he was no longer prime minister, Dr Mahathir said: "I will continue to be Bersatu chairman because I am still a member of parliament. I just won't be the prime minister."

This was said with reference to talks of PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim taking over from Dr Mahathir as prime minister at some point in the near future.

Asked to evaluate Bersatu leaders in his Cabinet, Dr Mahathir said they were still new.

"Some have come to see me for advice. There are times they get too excited and make statements that are not good for the party or themselves.

"We cannot expect newbies to become experts on the first day of work. Some make mistakes, however, it can be corrected."

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