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Zuma's ministers attend special cabinet meeting

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Ministers and deputy ministers were all absent from the public eye today as they attended a special cabinet meeting in Pretoria.

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Details about the special cabinet meeting were not immediately available.

A short statement released this afternoon by government communications read: "Government spokesperson, Mr Themba Maseko, would like to inform members of the media that the special cabinet meeting that President Jacob Zuma has convened today, October 25 2010, is still in session and will end later in the day. Members of the media will be advised later on the way forward."

Speculation in media circles has been rife that Zuma will this week reshuffle his cabinet, and an earlier press release by government communications did not deny the reshuffle. It urged the media to allow the ministers to continue with their usual duties.

"Government has noted the ongoing media speculation about a cabinet reshuffle, including names that are being proposed by the media for appointment or removal. We wish to emphasise that any change to the composition of the executive is the prerogative of the president of the Republic of South Africa."

The Weekend Argus newspaper reported yesterday that Zuma was set to make several "possible key changes" to his cabinet, and that the special meeting today was an attempt to formulate a new economic growth strategy.

Science and technology minister Naledi Pandor was scheduled to attend the release of the Human Sciences Research Council's annual results, but speakers at the event said she could not attend because of "an urgent cabinet meeting".

- SAPA

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