

Musa to keep Education?

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir is expected to appoint Umno deputy president Datuk Musa Hitam as the new Deputy Prime Minister when he announces the new Cabinet line-up on July 20.

Sources here said Datuk Musa is expected to retain the Education portfolio while being the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, the sources added, has been offered the Finance portfolio in the new line-up.

Should he decide not to remain in the Cabinet, the probability is that Datuk

Seri Dr Mahathir, as Prime Minister, will take charge of Finance as well.

The sources said there would be no major changes in the Cabinet as Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir "does not want to rock the boat" prior to the general election which some expect will be held next year.

This is the reason why no one is being dropped for the moment, the sources added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is also expected to promote Federal Territory Deputy Minister Encik Abdullah Haji Ahmad to full ministership.

It is expected that there will be no

other promotions.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is also expected to take over the Defence portfolio that will be vacated by Datuk Hussein Onn.

There is speculation he will give the Trade and Industry portfolio to Foreign Affairs Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

It is said Datuk Mokhtar Hashim will take over the Foreign Affairs portfolio, giving up the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry to Encik Abdullah.

The sources said these are the possibilities being discussed. The new line-up is yet to be finalised.