

Cool it, Dr M tells candi dates

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed today urged candidates in the coming Umno triennial elections on June 26 to "cool down" their campaigning.

He said Umno members have enough speculation on who they would choose as their leaders. "The general feeling among the members at this point is that about 90 per cent of Umno members had made up their minds on which candidate to vote during the elections.

"And so it is up to the individual Umno members to decide who to vote for," said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

"I think that in any elections we must never take things for granted and this comes from personal political experience."

On his call to two candidates for the party's deputy presidency, Education Minister Datuk Musa Hitam and Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to contest for the vice president posts as well, Dr Mahathir said Tengku Razaleigh has not confirmed to him on the matter.

had clearly indicated their preference for Datuk Musa.

The Malay bi-weekly *Watan* said in a recent Padang Terap delegates meeting 100 of the delegates voted for Datuk Musa and 50 for Tengku Razaleigh.

At Alor Star delegates meeting, 125 voted for Datuk Musa and only seven for Tengku Razaleigh.

So far only Kuala Muda division, headed by Encik Khir Johari, is believed to be in favour of Tengku Razaleigh.

Some observers felt the strength of support for Tengku Razaleigh should not be underestimated.

Kedah Umno members still remember the amount of support given by Tengku Razaleigh during the Bukit Raya by-election in April last year.

Both Umno Kedah and Umno Kelantan faces a common enemy — the Pas. And because of Tengku Razaleigh's success in defeating Pas in Kelantan, the delegates would not rule him out easily.

He added that Datuk Musa had discussed the matter with him but still has not made a decision.

Meanwhile, observers said delegates from the home state of Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir are expected to be more cautious in voting for the No. 2 post.

In case both Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh should run only for deputy presidency, the votes from the 13 Kedah Umno divisions are likely to split.

But the observers believed Datuk Musa stand a better chance of receiving the majority of their votes.

Umno sources said about 80 per cent of the delegates are teachers who are expected to be in favour of the Education Minister.

The Padang Terap and Alor Star division