

Dr M: Race for No. 2 won't have adverse effects

RUN-UP
TO
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POLLS

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(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.- The outcome of the contest for the Umno deputy presidency on June 26 will not adversely affect the party or the Government, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir** said today.

Referring to the close

contest between Finance Minister **Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah** and Education Minister **Datuk Musa Hitam** for the party's number two post, he said the result would not cause any unfavourable effect.

He added that the two candidates have had also given their assurances

during yesterday's Umno Supreme Council meeting that there would be no adverse consequences.

This indicated that both contestants would accept the election outcome in good faith, he added.

Pressed for further comments, the deputy Prime Minister said: "That is all I can say."

Asked if his statement meant that the loser in the deputy presidency race would remain in the Cabinet, he replied: "That's up to you all to

interpret."

Tengku Razaleigh and **Datuk Musa** are only contesting for the party's deputy presidency and technically, the loser will be out of Umno's highest policy-making body.

However, the loser can still be appointed to the Supreme Council, which, apart from the 20 seats reserved for those elected, also comprises seven appointed seats.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had said in Ipoh yesterday that any problem arising from the

race for deputy president could be solved.

He had also said that **Tengku Razaleigh** and **Datuk Musa** were sensible leaders who were not stubborn and would always serve the party.

Tengku Razaleigh had publicly stated that he would resign should he lose the contest.

"Calls for a compromise between the two have been made by various Umno leaders, including National Front secretary-general **Ghafar Baba**."