

Razaleigh will be asked to stay:

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.
— **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today efforts will be made to persuade Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to remain in the Cabinet.**

The new Umno president said it is not certain at the moment whether Tengku Razaleigh would leave the Cabinet, but if he did intend to leave, efforts would then be made to persuade him to stay.

"I personally would like to see him continue in his present capacity as a Minister in the Cabinet," he told reporters during a tea break at the Umno General Assembly here.

On rumours that there was bitterness between the supporters of Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa, he said there was bound to be some disruption and mild bitterness over the turn of events and over the language used during the campaigning.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir predicted a very good future for Umno, explaining that the members were very mature.

"They are very sober. They will make an effort to reduce any bitterness between them," he said.

On the economy, he said Malaysia was doing well despite the world economic disruption.

He expected the economy to continue its pre-

sent pace of growth. "We will do everything possible to stimulate growth," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said he did not foresee any radical change in the party or the Government. There might, however, be changes in the method of implementation of policies which would remain unchanged.

"What the people need is pragmatism, not radicalism, even though the two people who might be leading the Government were once party rebels," he said.

Both Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa were expelled from Umno in 1969. They re-joined the party after the late Tun Abdul Razak took over the presidency was from Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said his first priority would be to get acquainted with the job. He said there were a lot of things to learn as president.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the business community had no cause for worry over the changes in the Umno leadership.

On rumours that should Tengku Razaleigh lose, Pas would come up, he said they were just what they were — rumours.

Commenting on the outcome of the Umno elections so far, Datuk

Seri Dr Mahathir said in any contest there would be losers.

"It must also be remembered that there are other losers in the election, including for the vice-presidency and the chairmanship.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he has still not decided whether to relinquish his Trade and Industry portfolio.

He also said he would have to cut down on his overseas travel to the barest minimum once he takes over as Prime Minister.

He added that he would also have to delegate more duties to the Deputy Trade and Industry Minister or to a new Minister to conduct the investment and trade missions abroad.

"However, the missions conducted so far have been so successful that I think the new Minister should stay at home to make sure that projects are now implemented," he said.