

# Finance for Razaleigh

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah will retain the finance portfolio if he decides to remain in the Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who will be sworn in as the nation's fourth Prime Minister at 11 am on July 16, said there would be no major changes in the new Cabinet to be announced on July 20.

However, there would be some reshuffling involving both Ministers and Deputy Ministers, he said.

He said former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Harun Idris would not be given a Ministerial post even if he was pardoned "because he is not a Member of Parliament".

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir spoke on various topics, including the next general elections, Malaysia's foreign policies, trade policies, education and the civil service, in an interview with *Bernama*.

On the next general election, he said there would be no new constituencies and that it was too early to say whether National Front component parties would be allocated the same seats or there would be a reallocation of seats.

He described the defection of members from one National Front component party to another as "unfortunate but unavoidable".

On the Pas threat to the National Front, particularly Umno, he said it was "irritating".

He dismissed specula-

tion that Pas influence in his constituency of Kubang Pasu in Kedah was spreading.

"This is not true, it is only their dream," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there would be no changes in the country's foreign policy.

He said the communist threat "is less serious than dadah but still serious."

Asked if it was true that the MCA and other non-bumiputra parties were rather apprehensive of his leadership, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: "I am not aware of this".

## Religion

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also Trade and Industry Min-

ister, said there would be no changes in the country's trade policies.

"The present trade policy and incentives will not be changed," he added.

He said the new Government would provide more information and better service to attract more investors to the country.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also assured that the present education policy would be maintained.

A special panel will be set up to study whether Government policies and projects are compatible with Islam.

The Government, he added, would also ensure that Islam was correctly interpreted and given its rightful place of prominence as the nation's official religion.

On the civil service, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the code of ethics for civil servants introduced three years ago had been "quite effective".

On demands for civil servants below Superscale G to also be given housing allowance, he said the Government had no plans to do so.

He pointed out that civil servants below Superscale G were being paid the civil service allowance, compensating

for their not getting the housing allowance.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the amendments to the country's labour laws introduced last year had been quite effective.

This was intended to curb unfair practices among unionists and the interference of international trade secretariats in local union affairs, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir refuted allegations that the recent amendments to the Societies Act were intended to curb the activities of those organisations which had been constantly criticising the Government.

"This is not at all true, just as the accusation that they were meant to prevent Datuk Harun from contesting in the Umno election was also not true," he added. — *Bernama*.