

# Musa: I'm totally for Dr M

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DATUK Musa Hitam has reaffirmed his total support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Umno president and Prime Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Umno President also said he had never had any misunderstanding with his boss.

"We have always carried out responsibilities and duties on a consultative basis which is within the Umno tradition and principle.

"Anyone having preconceived ideas that our relationship is on the rocks or hoping that it would be can forget about the whole thing," he said when winding up the debate at the final day of the Umno general assembly.

Datuk Musa expressed concern that in the past one year there had been numerous rumours among Umno members and the people over the so-called strained relationship between him and Dr Mahathir.

"They were saying that Musa had a falling out with Dr Mahathir," he said.

And when he was not in the country during the recent Hari Raya Puasa, the rumours became more rife.

The talk had gained so much ground that even some of the Umno Supreme Council members started wondering if there was any truth in it.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that he and Dr Mahathir worked together on a complementary basis.

This was their normal practice.

"When I do not make my stand on heavy industries as stressed by Dr Mahathir for instance, it does not mean I am not in favour of him or his idea.

"If Dr Mahathir looks East and I look West in the other direction, it does not mean that our relationship is strained. Instead this reflects the complementary nature of our working relationship.

"I'd like to emphasise here that whatever I say on any issue, it is the result of discussion between the two of us," he said.

He said there was no logic to the suggestion that his loyalty to Dr Mahathir was questionable and that they could not work together.

"How can our relationship be strained when I have been given the trust to act as Prime Minister every time he left the country?"

Datuk Musa said the Supreme Council members, including himself, would continue to give their undivided support to the Prime Minister.

"We will be behind him in facing our enemy and in serving the people," he added, and this drew loud applause from the crowd.

"We have been and will continue to struggle in one voice, one tone for the interest of the party, people, religion and country."