

PM: I'm not aware of any such letter

PETALING JAYA, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he was not aware of any letter purportedly from Datuk Musa Hitam demanding that Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah be dropped from the Cabinet.

He was speaking to reporters after visiting the aerospace company, Airod Sdn Bhd, in Subang.

The Indonesian daily, *Kompas*, quoting informed sources had said that Datuk Musa who tendered his resignation as Deputy Prime Minister and as Umno deputy president on Feb 27 had written to the Prime Minister expressing his disappointment that Tengku Razaleigh had been retained in the Cabinet reshuffle two years ago.

The daily also quoted informed sources as saying that Datuk Musa, who defeated Tengku Razaleigh for the Umno number two post, had also given Dr Mahathir one year until last August to drop Tengku Razaleigh from the Cabinet.

Dismissing such talks as "mere speculation" Dr Mahathir said:

"I'm not aware of it. They are mere speculations. It seems to me they (political observers) know more. Why don't you ask them?"

Bernama reports that Tengku Razaleigh does not rule out the possibility that Datuk Musa had tendered his resignation because of him.

"It's possible," he said when asked for his comments at Parliament House today.