

How to remove PM who won't resign: Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — A Prime Minister who refuses to resign after losing his post in the ruling party can be removed by a motion of no-confidence in the Dewan Rakyat.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this today when asked if he must resign if he loses the Umno presidency to challenger Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

He said it was merely a technical matter if a Prime Minister did not want to resign after losing his party post.

"Technically, it is up to the Prime Minister to make his own decision.

"If the Prime Minister does not want to resign and there are others who want him to be removed, they can move a motion of no-confidence against him in the Dewan Rakyat."

He said that if that happened, Malaysian parliamentary rules and practice stipulated that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong would have to call on the man who had the confidence of the House to form a new Government.

Dr Mahathir also alleged that the camp of Tengku Razaleigh and incumbent deputy president Datuk Musa Hitam might call for a snap election if they won.

"I heard stories that if a new leadership comes to power after the party elections, there will be a general election to replace existing MPs with their own men.

"I do not know if this is suggested seriously or is just a campaign tactic.

"This is only what I heard." He declined to elaborate.