

# DR M: NO CONDITIONS

'I'm ready  
to meet  
Razaleigh'

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**PENANG, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad dismissed the need for a "round-table discussion" on Umno unity with his opponents but said that he was prepared to talk with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah when he visits Kelantan next month.**

"But there should be no conditions attached. Datuk Musa Hitam met me for two hours while I was in Johore and he did not lay down any conditions," the Prime Minister told a Press conference at the end of his three-day official visit to the State.

"He came to see me on his own free will. He was not forced. In any case, Tengku Razaleigh should be able to meet me when I go to Kelantan on Oct 2 and 3. If Tengku Razaleigh wants to meet me,

there is no problem ... he can see me when I visit Kelantan."

Dr Mahathir said Datuk Musa had attended his meeting with Umno leaders in Johore Baru and they had also met again at a dinner organised by the State Government during his recent visit there.

He said that there was no need for a "round-table" talk with Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh as "there has never been such a thing in the Umno and Barisan Nasional tradition."

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a call by Tunku Abdul Rahman that he initiate a "round-table discussion" with Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa to strengthen Umno unity.

Tengku Razaleigh, the former Trade and Industry Minister, failed to unseat Dr Mahathir in the April Umno elections while Datuk Musa was defeated in his bid to retain the deputy presidency by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba.

Yesterday, Tengku Razaleigh had said that he was willing to talk with Dr Ma-

hathir to strengthen party unity but on condition that "everybody refrains from acting or making statements which can create disunity in Umno."

Dr Mahathir denied a claim made by Tengku Razaleigh that his meetings with Umno members in his State visits were done with the purpose of creating disunity.

"That's his (Tengku Razaleigh's) view. As far as I am concerned, the visits have been fruitful and have managed to unite party members again," he said.

On whether he had any grudge against Tengku Razaleigh, as alleged by the latter, Dr Mahathir said: "Ask him."

He also said there was no "witch-hunt" in Umno as the Cabinet and State Executive Councils were made up of those who "can work together."

"What is important is that the State Exco and Cabinet members can work together and (this) does not obstruct the running of the administration," he added.

Dr Mahathir said those who had been left out of any positions had said they were willing to be sacked.

He said these people had also said that they no longer had confidence in the present leadership and had also "leaked out secrets."

"I believe if the winning side had lost (in the election), they would also have been sacked. I am sure if I had lost, I would no longer be the Prime Minister ... that's the fact of life," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was important for members to understand the problems that had surfaced.

He said during his meeting with Datuk Musa, the latter had discussed with him various political issues including those of Umno because "Datuk Musa felt a need to do so as he was leaving for the United States." The former Deputy Prime Minister left last week for a three-month fellowship at Harvard University.

"One of the things Datuk Musa said was that he did not support the action taken by the 12 members in taking the party to court," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who said he welcomed Datuk Musa's stand, also urged party members not to support the 12 or to finance their legal suit.