

I didn't ask Musa to swear: Mahathir

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PENANG, Sat. — Prime Minister ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said he did not challenge Datuk Musa Hitam to swear on the Quran in a mosque that allegations made by Datuk Musa against him were true.

Commenting on a report in a Malay daily today that Datuk Musa is prepared to cut short his overseas trip and return to take up the challenge, Dr Mahathir said: "If he wants to return and swear, that is up to him."

He was speaking to reporters just before boarding a plane at the Bayan Lepas old airport to return to Kuala Lumpur after launching the State Semarak campaign today.

He said the Press had misquoted him as challenging Datuk Musa but "What I actually said was that I was prepared to swear...."

He added that Datuk Musa, during his Cabinet days, had undertaken not to reveal Cabinet matters.

In a video distributed in the run-up to the Johore Baru by-election, Datuk Musa had accused Dr Mahathir of being a dictator and of not allowing anybody else to speak during Cabinet meetings.