

Mahathir: I don't have power to make Razaleigh premier

JITRA, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today that he does not have the power to offer the prime minister's post to Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

The prime minister and Umno president said Tengku Razaleigh should rejoin the party and stand for election if he wanted that post.

"If he wins, then he can be the prime minister," Bernama quoted Dr. Mahathir as saying during a visit to his parliamentary constituency.

Dr. Mahathir was commenting on a report in *Utusan Malaysia* today which quoted Tengku Razaleigh, the Semangat 46 president, as saying he would rejoin Umno if Dr. Mahathir offered him the prime minister's post.

Dr. Mahathir said he was willing to meet Tengku Razaleigh again to discuss Malay unity.

However, the prime minister said he would be "reluctant" to accept eight resolutions adopted by Semangat 46, which included calling for the revival of the old Umno.

Datuk Musa Hitam also gave similar advice to Tengku Razaleigh.

The former deputy prime minister told reporters in Kota Tinggi that Tengku Razaleigh had the potential to become the prime minister if he "went about things in the proper manner."

Datuk Musa said that the only real chance that Tengku Razaleigh had of realising his ambition would be to rejoin Umno.

He said that at present there was no guarantee that Tengku Razaleigh would become the prime minister even if his opposition coalition Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah somehow managed to win sufficient seats in the general election.

Datuk Musa said that in all likelihood PAS would ask for the premiership and not support Tengku Razaleigh's bid if the group won.

Datuk Musa also said that Tengku Razaleigh should not impose such impossible conditions for rejoining Umno.

"He cannot simply ask someone to vacate their seat in his favour as a condition to join the party. He should join Umno first and offer himself for selection in the true democratic process." Datuk