

Dr M is more relaxed in his leadership, says Musa

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has changed his style of leadership to one that is much more relaxed yet still firm, Kota Tinggi MP Datuk Musa Hitam said today.

Datuk Musa, who has been appointed special envoy to the United Nations, was commenting on whether he could work with the Prime Minister again following his loss in the 1987 Umno election.

Asked if he had fully reconciled with the Umno president after he had teamed up with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah in the party contest, Datuk Musa, the former Deputy Prime Minister, said:

"Reconciliation does not arise because Dr Mahathir himself has moved from one direction to another and he seems to be well aware of the overall sensitivity and psychology of

the people.

"So now I think he seems to be much more relaxed. His attitude and style of leadership is much more relaxed and much more firm.

"So the question of reconciliation does not arise here because we are human beings. We change.

"I change. I do believe Dr Mahathir has changed and we will continue to change for the better. And in view of that, why not?"

Spokesman

Datuk Musa, who is also the chairman of Segamat Umno division, was speaking to reporters at Universiti Malaya.

He had earlier presented a paper on "The backwardness of the Malays and its solution", at the seminar on "Malay Thinking" organised by the university's students union and the Bahasa Malaysia society.

He said he was aware that he had differences with Dr Mahathir but this had generally been resolved.

He said his mission to unite the Malays in Johor after Umno was declared unlawful had been achieved "though not 100 per cent, at least 90 per cent".

He claimed that Johor, with 215,000 Umno members, had regained its status as the State with the largest membership.

On his appointment, he said he would be the official spokesman for Malaysia on international issues, especially on the environment, dadah and Cambodia.

Although his appointment was to the United Nations, he would be actively liaising with investors, especially in the United States and elsewhere if required by the Prime Minister.

Asked if the post had Ca-

binet status, he said he hoped to play the role envisaged by the Government and there was no need to fuss over it.

"The appointment is of a status suitable to me and to the title of special envoy. This position has never been established at the United Nations yet."

Contributions

However, he said it did not matter what role had been given to him as long as his contributions could benefit the community, the party and the nation.

He said he was aware that there were some who felt the appointment was to move him away from the local political arena.

"When I do it (accept the appointment), I won't think of the political implications. I don't worry about erosion of political power-base. If I do that, I won't be able to function at all."