

# Subra's comeback depends on legalities on tenure of senatorship

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THE Cabinet will check if Datuk S. Subramaniam can be appointed a Senator to enable him to be made a Deputy Minister.

There is a ruling which only allows a senator to serve only two terms, and Datuk Subramaniam's appointment will depend on whether he had served his senatorship prior to that ruling.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this after chairing a 3½ hour Umno Supreme Council meeting at the Umno headquarters yesterday.

The Prime Minister said he is happy to note that MIC president Datuk Seri Samy Vellu and Datuk Subramaniam had settled their differences for the sake of the party and the Indian community.

Datuk Seri Samy Vellu had said Datuk Subramaniam will be reinstated as MIC deputy presi-

dent since they have patched up matters.

Datuk Subramaniam was tipped to fill the vacancy for one of two deputy minister's posts left vacant after the new line-up was announced just after the general election.

The posts, allotted for MIC, were vacant due to differences between Datuk Samy Vellu and Datuk Subramaniam and Datuk K. Pathmanaban.

The names for the two posts will be announced later.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir confirmed he has received a "personal letter" from Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin expressing his desire to resign.

"I have not made up my mind on the matter. But he did explain the reasons for his desire (to quit)," he said.

Datuk Paduka Daim

wants to resign as the Finance Minister because he feels he has accomplished his task of reviving the country's financial position, he said.

Datuk Paduka Daim had referred to his (Dr Mahathir's) undertaking to appoint him Minister only to revive and restructure the nation's financial position.

Datuk Paduka Daim has restructured the financial situation to the

current level.

"Therefore, he says he has completed his task, and that I should release him," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir's comments were in response to questions on whether he would reshuffle the Cabinet following Datuk Paduka Daim's intention to resign and the patching up of differences between Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Datuk S. Subramaniam.