

PM: No reason for him to do it

LANGKAWI, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there was no reason for Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to discredit the country when the international community has high regard for Malaysia.

Asked to comment on Tengku Razaleigh's denial that he had discredited the Government, Dr Mahathir said: "We know (what he has done), he says we are corrupt."

"If it is true, we don't mind, but it is not true," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after officiating the groundbreaking ceremony of Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (M) Bhd's tourism and hotel school at Teluk Baru here.

On Tengku Razaleigh's claim that he did not know what was actually aired by

the television station on his interview, Dr Mahathir said: "We can provide him with the tape."

On another claim by Tengku Razaleigh that the country's economy was more vibrant during his tenure as the Finance Minister, Dr Mahathir said that was not so.

"There were a lot of debts ... he even promised to give Selangor Umno RM3,000 million and a licence to the State Government to operate a bank before an Umno election. Why was he doing that?" Dr Mahathir asked.

Asked whether Tengku Razaleigh had failed as the Finance Minister, Dr Mahathir said the present economic environment was far better than during his tenure.

"It's all in the annual economic reports ... you can find out who lied," he said.