

Dr M: Ku Li won't even get one

Maybe Gua Musang may nominate him, says Umno ex-president

PUTRAJAYA: The posts of Umno president and deputy president should not be challenged by anybody, including Gua Musang Umno division chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, said former party president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Razaleigh, who had offered to contest for the president's post, was not going to get even one nomination.

"Maybe he is getting (a nomination) from his, own division. He said he is going for the post, that is his right to say but he is riot going anywhere," he told reporters after attending a birthday party thrown by his staff for him and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here.

Dr Siti Hasmah celebrated

her 79th birthday yesterday while Dr Mahathir's 79th birthday was last Saturday.

Dr Mahathir said he felt that if anyone wanted to contest for any post, the highest level should be vice-president.

"I think the president and deputy president should not be challenged. Anybody, and I am not talking about Razaleigh alone, if they want to vie for a

post, they should try at vice-president level. That is the Umno tradition," he added.

The former prime minister said Razaleigh's reason for offering himself was to uphold democracy.

"But I have always said democracy is meant for the people, not the people who must sacrifice for democracy," he said.

In Kuala Lumpur, party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin described Razaleigh's offer to contest for Umno's top post as puzzling.

He said past contests for the post had raised, many issues and caused big problems within, the party resulting in its deregistration in 1988.

"He has gone through it himself so why should he go

through it again? This is what puzzles me," said Muhyiddin, who described Razaleigh's chances as "not only very slim, but nil."

He said Umno members and leaders had generally agreed that there was no need for a contest for the top posts.

• Aussie family gets to wish Dr M -P18