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Dr M: Ku Li has no backing

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah is unlikely to win the Umno presidency, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"To be elected Umno president, you need support from 60 divisions. And I cannot imagine 60 divisions backing him," Dr Mahathir said yesterday.

"I cannot see as many as 60 divisions being brave enough to support Ku Li."

Asked whether he supported Tengku Razaleigh, who had once challenged him for the Umno presidency, Dr Mahathir said: "I'm not supporting him because there could be other potential candidates."

As to who would be a suitable candidate, Dr Mahathir said "no one".

"I think we should amend the Umno

constitution so that the president can be advised by a presidential council.

"There should be a way of bringing in independent people to advise the president."

Speaking after a book launch at Carcosa Seri Negara here, Dr Mahathir said no Umno member dared to back him openly when he called for party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to step down.

Dr Mahathir launched *Management Astray: Resuscitating Ailing Organisations* by former Bank Negara director Tan Sri Basir Ismail.

Basir, who died in January last year, held numerous executive posts, including chairman of Petronas, United Plantations Berhad and Permodalan Nasional Bhd.