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Ku Li: I'll stay to fight Abdullah

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Umno presidency challenger says he won't quit or work with Opposition

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ALOR STAR: Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah will remain in Umno to challenge Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the party presidency and also to clean up the party.

The Gua Musang MP also said he would never form a pact with the Opposition to set up a new government even if Umno was battered by internal conflict.

"I have my own party. Why must I quit the party? I will remain in the party to challenge the president (Abdullah) and will fight to clean up the party," he said yesterday after opening a gathering organised by the Kedah Malay Unity Organisation. He said he had no plan to work

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TENGGU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH

out a pact with Parti Keadilan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"I am not in contact with Anwar. There is no reason for me to form a pact with the Opposition," he added.

Razaleigh said he was shocked by Dr Mahathir quitting the "new Umno" that he formed 21 years ago.

"It is a drastic move. He should not

have done that. But perhaps he had no other option," he said.

"He probably wants to send a message to party members to stop the *ampu bodek* (apple polishing) culture."

Razaleigh said Dr Mahathir's action might influence other Umno members to quit.

"This will have a far-reaching implication on Umno. But I do not want to speculate further," he said.

Pressed if he would also quit the party eventually, Razaleigh said: "Dr Mahathir has made his decision, and I will make mine."

Tengku Razaleigh said he did not want to retreat in his struggle to save the party.

"I believe there is still a chance to repair the party," he added.



Making his entrance: Razaleigh arriving for a function at Beng Siew Hall in Sungai Petani yesterday.