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Dr M lying about Umno polls, says Razaleigh

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PETALING JAYA: Two old foes in Umno have renewed their fight following the publication of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's controversial best-selling autobiography, *A Doctor in the House*.

Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has slammed the book as being full of "comedianship" and "political lying".

Tengku Razaleigh, or Ku Li as he is popularly known, refuted the allegations against him in the book, which accused him of leading the Team B faction in a dirty campaign which

involved money politics during the 1987 Umno elections.

"As Allah is my witness, I have not done those things. I never steal. I never cheat," he said in his speech before launching the book by Wang Gungwu, *Junzi Scholar-Gentleman*, on Friday night.

He said he did not have that kind of money, referring to Dr Mahathir's allegations that about RM20mil was spent on the campaign, with most of the money provided by Tengku Razaleigh himself.

"I do not have that sort of money. I have no cronies.

"In fact, I am against money politics," he said.

He also said political lying, was pervasive in Malaysia today.

"Unfortunately, I do not have remedies in this country to challenge fabrication and political lying," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh is the second person to have refuted claims made in Dr Mahathir's memoirs after Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim accused the former prime minister of suffering from "selective amnesia".

He said the memoirs, launched under a "pseudo title", was a copy-cat title of a famous British comedy film in the 1950s based on another novel.

"Perhaps it was deliberate, as it does reflect some comedianship, apart from political lying," he said, adding that the allegations made by Dr Mahathir were "not new".

In his speech, Tengku Razaleigh also described Wang Gungwu's book as that reflecting a "scholar with intellectual honesty."

"A rare commodity these days, particularly in the political atmosphere that we face today in Malaysia where political lying has become pervasive.

"Political lying comes through the media and sometimes, by writing so-called books of memories," he said.