

Dr Mahathir's resignation will not affect Umno, says Tengku Adnan
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By Melati A. Jalil

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's departure from Umno for the second time in eight years will not affect the overall membership of the party, Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said today.

The Umno secretary-general said he had yet to receive any official resignation letter from Dr Mahathir following his announcement yesterday to quit the country's biggest Malay party.

"I don't know, I haven't received any (letter),"

"There is actually an increase in Umno membership every month... No (it will not affect membership)," he told reporters after holding a meeting with Federal Territories MPs at the ministry in Putrajaya.

Tengku Adnan, also the federal territories minister, was asked to comment if the overall party's membership would be affected by Dr Mahathir's decision to leave the party.

Tengku Adnan said was also unaware that Dr Mahathir was planning to set up a core group with the objective to oust Datuk Seri Najib Razak as prime minister.

The former prime minister first resigned from Umno in May 2008, over unhappiness with Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi the then prime minister who had led Barisan Nasional to dismal results in the general election that same year.

This time, Dr Mahathir's reason for leaving Umno was over his opposition to Najib, saying that the leading Malay ruling party was no longer what it used to be.

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