

'Dr M quitting won't affect membership drive'

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PUTRAJAYA: Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad quitting the party did not hinder its membership drive.

"Dr Mahathir's decision will not affect us as the party's membership is growing," said Adnan, who is also federal territories minister, after an engagement session between the ministry and Federal Territories' members of parliament yesterday.

On Monday, Dr Mahathir announced his decision to leave Umno together with his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, citing loss of faith in the party's leadership, especially after Umno suspended deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Tengku Adnan said he had yet to receive a letter from Dr Mahathir to quit the party.

In another development, Muhyiddin said he would hold a press conference tomorrow to respond to issues. He said he would speak about his suspension, his position in the party and other matters.

"I am still an Umno member and I want to thank all of you for your support," he said at the Kuala



Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor (right), who is also federal territories minister, at an engagement session between the ministry and Federal Territories' members of parliament in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Seri Adnan Md Ikshan (left). Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

Lumpur International Airport.

Muhyiddin, who arrived from Vietnam, came out of the arrival hall about 7pm yesterday. He was swarmed by photographers, reporters and supporters, who chant-

ed "Hidup Muhyiddin".

The decision to suspend Muhyiddin was made by Supreme Council members on Friday after a two-hour meeting chaired by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammudin

Hussein. Muhyiddin's suspension will continue until the next party election. Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was tasked with carrying out Muhyiddin's duties