

PM on Suffian's statement

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By Syed Abu Bakar

ALOR STAR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described as obnoxious the statement by Tun Mohamed Suffian Hashim in which he regarded politicians in this country as having primitive mentalities.

"If Tun Suffian said we politicians are primitive then he is being obnoxious," he said at the Kepala Batas airport near here.

The Prime Minister who was here to break fast with

his supporters and residents of Kampung Putat at the Kampung Putat mosque, near Kodiang, added that politicians here had created a chance for Tun

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Suffian to rise in his profession.

He said the former Lord President should contest in the general election if he thought he could improve the calibre of politicians.

Dr Mahathir said he could tell "a lot" about Tun

Suffian, like the time he asked for higher pay and post when he was working with the Government.

He advised Tun Suffian not to refuse to contest in the elections simply because he considered politics dirty.

"He should contest and later (if he wins) he should set his own standards," he said.

He said Tun Suffian had claimed that the salaries of judges under the existing scheme were small.

"We had not compared the pay scale with that of

the civil service but had drawn up a separate scheme.

"But Tun Suffian said it was too low and this showed that he is only good at talking.

"Is this the right type of person to be chairman of Election Watch?" he asked.

He said Tun Suffian had not contributed much to the country or to Bumiputeras during his service in the Standard Chartered Bank.

He said Tun Suffian did not seem neutral although he claimed he was by making such statements.