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PM: Chandra is clearly a dictator

Sarban Singh; Chok Suat Ling

KAJANG, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Parti Keadilan Nasional deputy president Dr Chandra Muzaffar who accused others of being a dictator was himself one.

The Prime Minister likened Chandra to a person who wished to impose his will on the nation.

"I am not surprised or shocked with what is happening in Parti Keadilan especially in relation to Chandra.

"From earlier days, he had always wanted to impose his will on the nation and accused us of all the wrongdoings," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after officially opening Universiti Tenaga Nasional here today.

He was asked to comment on a letter written by Parti Keadilan's former vice-president Marina Yusoff which has been posted on the Internet.

Marina criticised Chandra's leadership and said he created problems in the party which included feeding lies about her to others.

The letter was written by Marina on Jan 13 but was only sent to party president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail when Marina submitted her letter to quit the party on May 18.

Dr Mahathir said: "Now he has the opportunity to show his ability in Keadilan and we can clearly see that he likes to be dictatorial.

"He accuses others of being a dictator but he is one himself. Whoever goes against him will definitely get it (trouble)."

Asked on Marina's assessment of Chandra, Dr Mahathir refused to comment adding that it was up to her.

On whether Umno would accept all former members of Parti Keadilan who wished to join the party, Dr Mahathir said they would have to state their intentions of wanting to join the party first.

"We want to know why they want to enter. If they want to use Umno for their personal gains, they don't need to do so ... but if they uphold Umno's principles then we will accept them," he said adding that procedures for those entering Umno from other parties would be tighter.

Dr Mahathir said Umno had had bad experiences previously when it accepted an individual into the party.

"Very much later we found out that he is only interested in the party's top post. There was no feeling of loyalty to Umno ... no subscription to Umno's principles," he said.

Dr Mahathir said when the individual lost his position in Umno, he attempted to destroy the party.

"So, we have to be more careful now on the type of people we accept into the party," he said.

Asked whether Marina was only able to complete her Marinara building project when she left Umno to join Semangat 46 under Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Dr Mahathir said he did not know.

He said all he knew was the fact that Marina could not get any funds, which led to her leaving Umno and joining Tengku Razaleigh (in Semangat 46).

"After that I realised the building was going up because she was friendly with certain quarters. But the building has never been stopped ... it was going up.

"We do not withdraw approvals just because we do not like a person.

"This idea that the building was completed because of a change of

allegiance is of course the kind of thing we can hear from certain quarters, including the Press," he added.

(END)