

Dr M: I'll go against anybody who does not perform
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Oleh Leanne Tan

Former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad has denied practising double standards in campaigning for Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, but against the fifth prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"(There's) no double standard. If somebody doesn't perform, I will campaign, against anybody," Mahathir said, when approached after an event at the Malaysian Petroleum Club at the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur today.

"Whether he's my nominee or somebody else, I will campaign if somebody does not perform and in my view, Pak Lah didn't perform," Mahathir said.

Asked whether his answer meant that he was satisfied with Najib's performance, he responded, "Yes, I'm satisfied".

'No need to fix GE13 date'

Mahathir was also asked his opinion on whether the date for the coming general election should be fixed.

"No, we follow the British (system), actually. The date is fixed by the government dissolving the Parliament, after putting the proposal before the King," Mahathir said.

He said fixing the election date was an American idea and stressed to reporters that the current system should stay.

"Yes, we should maintain. I think we should not be copying everybody as we always have an inferiority complex. Whatever we do is wrong, including (the) Proton car," he said, rousing laughter from the reporters.

He explained that reputable car companies have withdrawn vast numbers of their vehicles due to failure, but noted the same has not happened to Proton.

"So please have better appreciation of local products," said Mahathir, who is also adviser to the national carmaker, as well as to national oil firm Petronas.

In a signing ceremony with Petronas Technology Ventures today, Proton acquired seven engine technologies and 117 patents as part of the carmaker's turnaround efforts.

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