

## **Mukhriz: Neglecting populism can cost BN GE14**

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Kedah Menteri Besar Mukhriz Mahathir has warned that BN may lose the next general election if the government is only concerned about rolling out "the right policies" and neglects the question of popularity.

"I am worried, if we only think about good policies and ignore popularity..."

"... then in the coming general election, even though we did what is right but due to the rakyat's (negative) perception, we will lose," he said in an interview published in Berita Harian today.

Mukhriz said in the interview that it is not possible to win an election without being popular.

He added that doing the right thing does not necessarily mean doing something that is unpopular.

"(Doing) the right thing and (being) popular are not mutually exclusive, they do not cancel each other out," he was quoted as saying.

Last month, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak (left) defended a series of austerity measures by stating that he cannot stand on a populist platform.

He had said the move was necessary to avoid having the government take up loans to run the country, and that going the populist route would destroy the nation.

However, in the interview today, Mukhriz said that the government needed to find a way to reconcile between doing the right thing and populism.

He added that the government should not rely on advice from "outsiders" though he did not specify whom he was referring to.

"We need to find a resolution on our own and not based on outside advice or parties who have questionable interests as we understand the problems better.

"If we are creative, we can find an approach to solve the rakyat's problems in a

way that is popular and right," he was quoted as saying.

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