

Mahathir: Najib soft and silent on critical issues

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is "soft" and often silent on important issues in the country, says former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This, he explained, is among the reasons for his stinging blog posting criticising Najib (right) this morning.

"He is too soft and many other things... Sometimes he does not respond, he just stays quiet.

"When there are problems he also does not take action," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur tonight.

However, Mahathir said he was not asking Najib to step down but was merely airing his displeasure.

"I am not asking him to step down, I am saying that I disagree with his policies," he said.

No concrete action

Mahathir lamented that there were several problems plaguing the nation such as racial and religious tensions but no concrete action had been taken to address them.

He also zoomed in on the security situation in Sabah.

"The country is invaded by foreigners and that is also not taken seriously.

"If it occurs once I can understand but it keeps occurring, people get kidnapped for ransom, too many things," he said.

Mahathir said he had tried to communicate with Najib but the prime minister did not take his input.

"He did not do anything," he said.

Asked if by publicly lashing out at Najib he hoped for a response, Mahathir replied: "I do not have any hope... it is not about responding but doing".

Mahathir added that it was up to Najib to decide on what to do in order to regain the strong man's support.

In a scathing blog posting this morning, Mahathir said he had withdrawn support for Najib

but even that has had no bearing on the prime minister's direction.

He added that he did not expect Najib to perform "worse than his predecessor" Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who as prime minister was consistently attacked by Mahathir.

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