

## **Every leader has an era, Zahid tells Mahathir**

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Short of telling Dr Mahathir Mohamad to zip up, Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi reminds the former premier that every leader has his era.

And now, he noted, is the era of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

"A leader has his own suitable era which makes him a leader at that period of time. Najib's era is suitable for Najib," he told reporters after attending an event this morning.

Zahid (left), who is also Umno vice-president, pointed out that in the age of the social media, political leaders paid the price for a "borderless era."

He said Mahathir, like everyone else, must respect leaders elected by the people and urged the former premier to show his loyalty to Najib.

"When he (Mahathir) was prime minister, he demanded loyalty from everybody. I am sure Najib also demands loyalty from everybody," he added.

Zahid also denied that there were certain forces in Umno attempting to topple Najib.

"There is nothing. Not even at the branch level, what more at the divisional level," he said in response to the speculation that the prime minister's days could be numbered.

In a scathing blog posting yesterday, Mahathir criticised Najib's leadership and claimed that he was worse than his predecessor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

A father and son scenario

Meanwhile, Cheras Umno division leader Syed Ali Alhabshee (right) likened the issue to a "father reprimanding his son".

"It is not a form of hatred but a reminder to improve the party and administration of the nation.

"In my opinion, if Mahathir did not love Najib, he would surely not reprimand him," he said.

"When a father like Mahathir reprimands or issues reminders, there is certainly some good to this.

"We must accept it with an open heart even if it is a little caustic," he added in his blog.

Meanwhile, former law minister Zaid Ibrahim (left) defended Mahathir's right to criticise Najib.

"Dr M has contributed immensely to the nation. Let him have his say, no need to be so riled up.

"He criticised everybody, some unfairly," he said in a twitter post.

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