

## **'Najib, if you love your post, step down'**

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**By Zulaikha Zulkifli**

Dr Mahathir Mohamad is urging Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to let go of the premiership despite his attachment to the position.

Referring to the Malay saying “if you love your wife, leave her (for absence will make the heart grow fonder)”, the ex-premier says Najib should step down and allow someone else to helm the country because he is no longer popular among the rakyat.

“People say if you love your wife, leave her (sayangkan isteri, tinggal-tinggalkan). It’s the same if you love your job. If you love your job, step down.

“It’s not that I didn’t love (my post as prime minister). For 22 years, I was married to the premiership. But when the time came, I resigned. We’ve given enough chances to people like Najib,” he said.

Mahathir said this in his speech at the ‘Bicara Negara’ programme in Ipoh today.

Some 2,000 people of various races attended the talk to hear him speak about Najib’s administration.

During the talk, Mahathir claimed that he is criticising Najib openly not for personal gain, but for “Umno, race, and country”.

“Many things he did are not right, so it is time for him to stop being the prime minister. I have thought about it carefully. Najib cannot win in the 14th general election.

“This is not a personal issue, I do this for the party, race, and country.

“If I do this for my personal interest, what for? I’m on pension (and) want to sleep. But I cannot sleep well thinking about this,” he said.

## **'Get rid of Najib'**

To ensure that Najib vacates his post as prime minister and Umno president, Mahathir also urged the party to topple him.

He said as someone who has been in the party since Tunku Abdul Rahman’s era, he is unwilling to allow the party to fade away if Najib is defeated at the next general election.

“Umno needs to get rid of Najib. It is (our) responsibility. If Najib continues to rule and loses (the election), Umno will disappear. An organisation with the good fortune of fighting so long with Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Razak (second Prime Minister Abdul Razak

Hussein) (left).

“(But) Tun Razak’s son (Najib) leads Umno to oblivion. I won’t have this. Although many people are angry at me, I declare that I don’t support Najib.

“I am confident that if he still leads, he will lose and I think it will be difficult for Umno to recover.

“The father founded Umno, but the son wants to bury Umno,” Mahathir said, to loud applause from the audience.

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