

**Defend Najib from Dr M, Umno division leaders told**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
**May 18, 2015**

Umno division leaders have been urged to deflect Dr Mahathir Mohamad's attacks against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

Cheras Umno division leader Syed Ali Alhabshee said his peers must do this instead of expressing individual support for the prime minister.

He expressed concern over the trend of some division leaders who backed Najib but did not counter Mahathir and the opposition's criticism, and that Mahathir's attacks on Najib were becoming an instrument of Umno's own demise.

"In this situation, Najib does not need individual support from division leaders.

"What he needs is for them to stand up to Mahathir's (photo) baseless allegations," he said in a statement in the Cheras Umno division's blog today.

He stressed that now is not the time for Umno division leaders to "play safe" but to show solidarity with Najib, because it would be too late to save the party at the time of its defeat.

Meanwhile, Syed Ali also said Mahathir's criticisms on the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) were "incorrect" and are causing misunderstandings.

He said while the former prime minister has the right to speak his mind, it should not lead to disunity in the party nor condemn the nation's future.

He added it was better for all parties to wait for 1MDB's audit results to be released first before making conclusions.

The audit of 1MDB's debt-ridden accounts was ordered by Najib on March 10.

The state investment company, in which Najib heads the board of advisers, has been the subject of attacks on his administration, particularly by Mahathir and members of the opposition party.