

## **'Najib lacks Dr M's guts to sack Umno deputy'**

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak appears to lack the courage in sacking Muhyiddin Yassin as Umno deputy president after dropping him as deputy prime minister on Tuesday, says former minister Zainuddin Maidin.

This is in contrast to former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who sacked then Umno deputy president Anwar Ibrahim in 1998, shortly after dismissing him as deputy prime minister.

Zainuddin said this in reference to the aborted Umno supreme council meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow, which he said could have been used as an opportunity to sack Muhyiddin as deputy president.

"In contrast to Mahathir (photo), who at that time was unsure of his support but still called for the supreme council meeting to sack Anwar, Najib appears to lack courage in taking risks, even though he is certain that the majority of the supreme council members support him," Zainuddin said in his blog posting today.

He said this may be a misstep on Najib's part, for as so long as Muhyiddin remains as Umno deputy president, he can continue to undermine his boss in retaliation.

"If this continues, then Najib will face a bigger challenge at the Umno divisional meetings nationwide as they will continue to invite Muhyiddin, who will undoubtedly discuss his dropping (as deputy prime minister) and (the Umno grassroots) will judge," he said.

Zainuddin speculates that Najib may not have a strong enough reason to convince the Umno supreme council to sack Muhyiddin as deputy president.

Unlike Anwar, who immediately launched a fiery ceramah against his former boss after being sacked from the government and Umno, Muhyiddin has adopted a softer approach, pledging his continued loyalty to Umno.

However, he still managed to fire an indirect salvo at Najib, after a leaked video yesterday showed him confiding in friends that the prime minister admitted RM2.6 billion was deposited into his private bank accounts.

The meeting appeared to have transpired on Tuesday, during which Muhyiddin received a stream of visitors and close friends at his residence, after being dropped from the government.

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