

Dr M wears Bersih T-shirt, urges M'sians to join rally
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Wearing a Bersih 5 T-shirt, former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad has appeared in what looks to be a promotional campaign video for electoral reform coalition Bersih.

In the 1-minute-37-second video message, Mahathir makes a last-minute call for all Malaysians to join this Saturday's Bersih 5 rally.

"Malaysia is now in distress. (Prime minister) Najib (Abdul Razak)'s administration has caused the country to incur billions of ringgit in debt, which cannot be paid by the government and state.

"That is why we must express our dissatisfaction with the government through participation in the rally by Bersih at Dataran Merdeka and any other location," Mahathir says.

"I hope all Malaysians will join this rally by Bersih because they aim to find a way to heal our country, change the government, so that it would be no longer led by a person who has been accused of stealing so much money...

"This is my hope and I hope all Malaysians will give their full support and participate in the Bersih rally," Mahathir adds in ending the video shared by Teja assemblyperson Chang Lih Kang on his Facebook.

Mahathir had only made brief appearances during the Bersih 4 rally in August last year and at the time, had yet to quit Umno, despite already being branded as one of Najib's harshest critics.

At that time, the rally was organised to call for Najib's removal over allegations surrounding 1MDB.

More than a year has passed since then and Mahathir is now chairperson of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, formed alongside former Umno No 2 Muhyiddin Yassin, as well as others who were seen as Najib's critics within Umno.

Bersih chairperson Maria Chin Abdullah has previously declared that the Bersih 5 rally would go on despite persistent threats from the Umno-linked red-shirts.