

## **Dr M: A convict should not be invited to the palace**

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Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed disagreement over Najib Abdul Razak's visit to the palace two months ago as he claimed that inviting the Pekan MP there gives the impression that he has royal support.

The Pejuang chairperson said that someone with Najib's reputation should not be having meals in the palace with the king after he did so in April during Ramadan.

"A convict should not be invited to the palace.

"It's not right and not nice because it shows that a convict is getting some support from the palace," Mahathir told a press conference in Putrajaya today.

Former premier Najib, whose critics claim is hoping for a royal pardon, was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and an RM210 million fine on July 28 last year over the misappropriation of funds belonging to SRC International Sdn Bhd, a former 1MDB subsidiary.

He is out on bail pending his final appeal at the Federal Court but is also on trial for other charges related to the sovereign wealth fund.

Mahathir also dismissed Najib's earlier claim that the veteran politician is "no longer relevant".

Najib had said this during the BN convention on June 1 after Pejuang failed to win any seats in the recent Johor election, despite the Langkawi MP campaigning in Ayer Hitam.

"That's his opinion. Other people have other views," Mahathir said.

### **Collaboration with opposition**

When asked which opposition party he would work with after the 15th general election, the nonagenarian replied that Pejuang has yet to decide who the best candidates are.

"We will see the candidates who are most likely to win, and we will let them know," he said, adding that many other organisations have joined forces with Pejuang to contest against BN.

The press conference was held at the Pejuang headquarters to commemorate a partnership between Pejuang Youth and the Silver Gold Collector Club to make gold a trading community and increase public knowledge on the importance of gold.

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