

Kit Siang asks: Has Mahathir crossed the Rubicon?
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PETALING JAYA - Has Mahathir crossed the Rubicon to declare war on Najib, 1Malaysia and NEM? That's the reaction and question from DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang over the former premier's latest racial outburst.

In his blog posting Wednesday, Lim said: "In one fell stroke yesterday, Mahathir had backtracked and repudiated Vision 2020 and 'Bangsa Malaysia' causing a whole generation of Malaysians nurtured on Vision 2020 and the concept of Bangsa Malaysia to feel cheated by a national leader who had been the country's longest-serving Prime Minister."

The Ipoh Timur MP added that "shock, outrage and consternation are understatements" of the reactions to Dr Mahthir Mohamad's latest outburst. Pas leaders have also slammed Mahathir for his racial rhetoric.

On Tuesday, Mahathir denounced the proponents of meritocracy as "racists too" and warned the Malay community that they risk losing political control of the country if they remain disunited.

"It is not just the spectacle of the former longest-serving Prime Minister of Malaysia adding oil to the cauldron of the politics of race and religion but the repudiation of the Vision 2020 and Bangsa Malaysia which he had proclaimed two decades ago," Lim wrote on his blog.

Lim said Mahathir's utterances yesterday have far-reaching implications than just his repudiation of the Vision 2020 and Bangsa Malaysia concept he had advocated since 1990.

Lim asked: "Has Mahathir crossed the Rubicon to declare war on his second successor as Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Razak after successfully forcing out the his first successor Tun Abdullah? Is Najib and his 1Malaysia and New Economic Model (NEM) now the targets of his attack and demolition?"

The DAP stewart added that it was a sad commentary on Mahathir's 22-year premiership that "he has returned to the politics of race."

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