

Dr M goes for MBs of Perak, Perlis



Dr Mahathir greeting the crowd on arrival at the Universiti Teknologi Petronas hall.

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TRONOH: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad trained his sights on the Perlis and Perak Menteri Besar who had come out in full support of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Both Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, and Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali had said they would give their full support to Abdullah as they had given to Dr Mahathir when he was prime minister for almost 23 years.

"They are hot thinking at all. I don't want to be supported for doing something wrong.

"I want to be supported for doing something right," he said.

Continuing his attacks on the current administration, Dr Mahathir claimed he had never condemned nor threatened Umno, but was only against leaders who strayed from the objectives and struggles of the party.

"I am only one person. There is no one supporting me.

"Why would they be afraid of one person?" he asked, alleging that people were being prevented from listening to him.

He maintained that he had no plans for a roadshow but would speak at places he was invited to speak.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after his speech on "Challenges of ruling a country" at Universiti Teknologi Petronas, yesterday.

During the question-and-answer session, Dr Mahathir said that he chose Abdullah over Datuk Seri Najib Razak as his successor because Najib was still young.

Dr Mahathir also continued his attacks on Khairy Jamaluddin, again raising questions which the deputy head of Umno Youth had replied to over the weekend.

Dr Mahathir, whose three sons

and other family members controlled or owned substantial shares in a number of listed companies during his tenure as prime minister, questioned who had lent Khairy the RM9 million to buy a minor interest in financial services company ECM Libra Berhad late last year.

Khairy had said over the weekend dial the vendors of the shares had given him the loan.

He said he had to repay the loan to the three vendors:

Dr Mahathir asked: "Who is the friend who lent him the money? -

"I also want to borrow. The Umno Youth also wants to borrow to buy ECM shares."

Dr Mahathir questioned why Khairy had not replied to his allegations that he had called Menteri Besar to issue projects.

Khairy had denied Dr Mahathir's accusations over the weekend and several Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers have also openly come-out and dismissed Dr Mahathir's claims as baseless.

They include Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamad Hassan, Pahang's Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Terengganu's Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Sabah's Datuk Seri Musa Aman and Penang's Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Dr Mahathir, in advocating that gold dinars be used instead of US dollars, also said that the United States should have been declared bankrupt because it had a US\$14 trillion (RM50.4 trillion) debt.

He said the US was still able to be an aggressor and buy guided missiles and lighter-jets to be sent to Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq because its currency was being used by many countries and corporations, which gave the currency its value.

In this context, he said national oil company Petronas was also a culprit as it was buying and selling in US dollars. Dr Mahathir is adviser to Petronas.