

DATE: 11/04/2008

'We don't need your help'

NST- 10/4/2008

■ By V. Vasudevan
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: DAP chairman Karpal Singh has called on former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to stop championing the cause of the opposition and persistently attacking Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The opposition does not need the unsolicited support of Dr Mahathir to ensure that the Barisan Nasional government is kept on its toes.

"Dr Mahathir should, perhaps, devote more time to his grandchildren in the twilight years of his life," said Karpal, who is also the Bukit Gelugor MP, in a statement yesterday.

"It is time for him (Dr Mahathir) to keep his peace and let the opposition keep the government of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in check."

Karpal said the opposition with its 82 seats in parliament had the numbers to achieve this objective.

Karpal said the opposition did not need personalities like

Dr Mahathir who went to the extent of deregistering Umno in 1988 and generally behaved in a dictatorial manner.

Karpal pointed out that Dr Mahathir's abuse of power when he was prime minister was conceded by Umno leaders, including Abdullah.

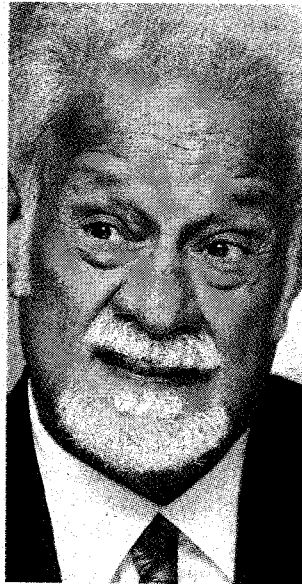
"He had publicly stated that Dr Mahathir was responsible for *Operasi Lalang*."

"I am sure Umno members will agree with what I am saying. I don't think Umno members today hold him (Dr Mahathir) in high esteem."

Karpal's latest swipe at Dr Mahathir follows a letter he wrote to the former prime minister on March 27.

In the letter, Karpal had accused Dr Mahathir of abusing provisions of Article 125 (3) of the Federal Constitution during the 1988 judicial crisis, which resulted in the creation of two tribunals.

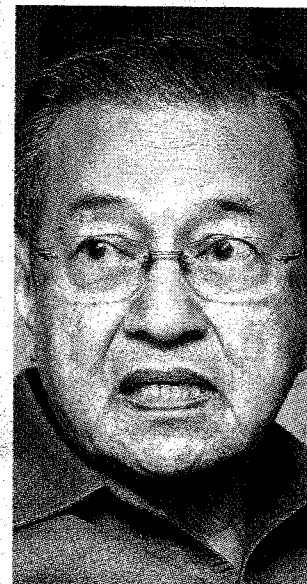
The two tribunals eventually found three judges guilty of misconduct and resulted in the removal of then lord president Tun Salleh Abas, High Court judges Tan Sri Wan Suleiman Pawanteh and



Karpal Singh says the opposition does not need any unsolicited support

Datuk George Seah.

"I am writing to you to indicate to me whether you are prepared to tender an unqualified and unconditional apology to Tun Salleh Abas, Datuk George Seah and the family of



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he owes no one an apology

the late Tan Sri Wan Suleiman Pawanteh.

"This is the least you can do in your lifetime to atone for your actions for what transpired 20 years ago," he told Dr Mahathir in the letter.

Karpal said he would raise the matter of an apology by Dr Mahathir at the coming sitting of the Dewan Rakyat, which begins on April 28.

Yesterday, Karpal also enclosed Dr Mahathir's letter to him dated April 3, where the former prime minister said his detractors (including Karpal) would never believe whatever he said.

"You are moved by pure hatred and I cannot respond to people who can never accept reality.

"My conscience is clear. I have done what was my duty and I owe nobody any apology. I am sure you will make use of this letter to dirty my name further. That is your right.

"I think you are the most contemptible of politicians and individuals," said Dr Mahathir.

Karpal's reply to this in his statement was: "As Dr Mahathir is much older than me, I do not propose to hurt his feelings in the vein by which he described me.

"I would advise Dr Mahathir to take my views in his stride. I assure him I don't hate him."