

CAMPAIGN TO TOPPLE THE PRIME MINISTER...

Dr M's last gambit

NST- 20/5/2008

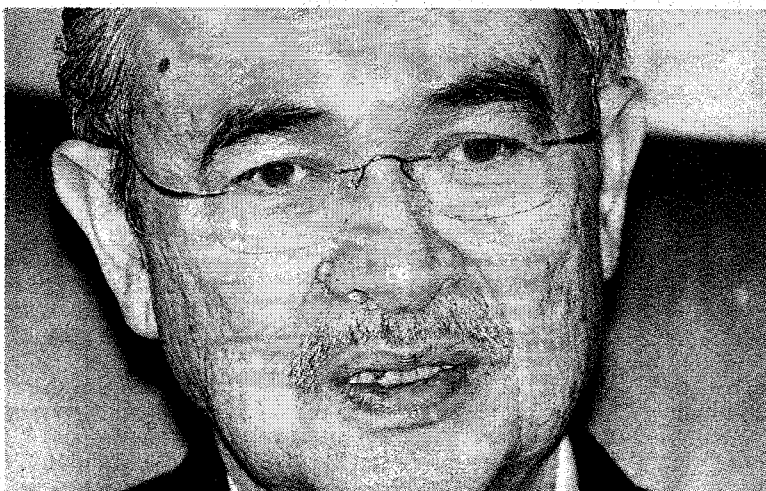
'I am quitting Umno today. I will only come back when there is a leadership change..'

● FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad urges party members, including cabinet members, to follow him to force Abdullah out...

"Until the party leadership is determined, other Umno members should follow me. We should not join any other party but rejoin Umno once Datuk Seri Abdullah has resigned as party president and prime minister. We have to be radical and brave and this is the only way to bring him down..."

● AND then slams party members for being disloyal to him...

"Before, people said I was serving the nation and they kissed my hand passionately to the point of causing steam to rise, but when I criticised Datuk Seri Abdullah for not building the bridge (at the Johor Causeway), people condemned me. Nobody in Umno defended me..."



ABDULLAH'S RESPONSE:

I WILL NOT BOW TO PRESSURE

● I'M shocked that Tun Dr Mahathir has resigned. His decision may weaken the party to some extent but I don't expect any of the Umno MPs to quit. The question is whether you care for Umno or not.

What's important now is for the members to remain calm and realise that they must be loyal if they want Umno to be strong. If they still love the party, they will not leave..'

THE CONSEQUENCE:

IF Umno lawmakers do quit the party and declare themselves independents, this would mean that no party commands a clear majority in Parliament. Umno holds 79 of BN's 140 seats.

The opposition, led by former deputy premier Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, needs just 30 seats to gain a simple majority and form the government.



● I'M shocked and sad that Tun Dr Mahathir has decided to leave the party. Umno is sacred to the Malays and I will continue to discuss with party president Datuk Seri Abdullah on efforts to strengthen the party and the transfer of leadership as expressed by the president himself..'

Datuk Seri Najib Razak



● WE must accept the reality that the Mahathirism concept is now over. Umno must return to the 'Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy' concept which was accepted very positively by the people in the early 1980s. But now, in such a short span, we in Umno have lost our sense of direction..'

Tun Musa Hitam



● TUN Dr Mahathir's decision is an irresponsible one as it does not benefit the party. It only creates an opportunity for the opposition. Umno is bigger than any individual. I advise Umno Youth members not to act in haste..'

Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein



● QUITTING is not the way to revive the party. I will not quit as I believe there are many other ways to improve the party's image. I will remain an Umno member and contest the party president's post in December..'

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah