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Mukhriz: Criticisms against my dad hurt BN

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ALOR STAR: The son of the former prime minister, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, yesterday claimed criticisms against his father by some Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders were a reason for the party and the ruling government's poor performance in the elections.

Mukhriz, Tun Mahathir Mohamad's youngest son, who is also the member of parliament for Jerlun, claimed people, including Umno and BN members, were turned off by the barrage of attacks and allegations against Dr Mahathir.

"Many people I met said they were hurt and upset over the attacks because they still have high regard for him.

"To vent their anger and frustration, they did not support Umno or BN and this is

one reason why we did not do well in the general election."

None of the Umno or BN leaders had criticised Dr Mahathir in his early years of retirement.

However, when Dr Mahathir himself started attacking current Umno and BN leaders incessantly—referring to them as "half-past-six cabinet" and "corrupt" (including those whom he himself had appointed), some of the BN and Umno leaders retaliated.

Dr Mahathir continued to attack his former colleagues and in talks and interviews with the media, urged Malaysians to vote in more opposition members.

Mukhriz did not refer to the attacks started by his father.

Mukhriz said this after of-

ficiating the commissioning of a 2.5km-long piped water system in Kampung Telaga Jambu here yesterday.

When asked to comment on DAP chairman Karpal Singh's attack on his father and describing Dr Mahathir as a joker, Mukhriz said:

"Going by his (Karpal's) logic, he (Karpal) is worse than a joker.

"If my father was a joker and still won many elections against Karpal, then he (Karpal) is worse than a joker."

Mukhriz, who is also an Umno Youth exco member, said Karpal would simply pick on his father each time he shares his views in public.

Mukhriz claimed that the DAP feared his father who he said "is still influential in politics although he has retired for almost five years".