

Karpal: It's Dr M who must apologise

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should apologise to the judges implicated in the 1988 judicial crisis, said DAP national chairman Karpal Singh.

He said that calling for the present government under Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to apologise was not a step in the right direction.

“It is not the present administration which convened those tribunals.

“The two tribunals in 1988 were initiated by Dr Mahathir. So he should apologise,” said the Bukit Gelugor MP. Karpal Singh also called for the setting up of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the judicial crisis.

“The commission should also establish whether there was any misconduct on the part of Dr Mahathir in abusing Article 125(3) of the Federal Constitution.

“It should look into the integrity of the two tribunals involved in the dismissal of the then Lord President Tun Salleh Abas and Supreme Court judges Tan Sri Wan Sulaiman Pawanteh and Datuk George Seah, he said.

“The first tribunal found Tun Salleh guilty of misconduct, while the second tribunal found the two judges guilty of misconduct,” he told a press conference at Jalan Duta court complex yesterday.

Karpal Singh said Dr Mahathir should apologise to the family of the late Wan Sulaiman. In the case of Wan Sulaiman and George Seah, he added, all benefits due to them should also be reinstated. Karpal Singh was responding to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Zaid Ibrahim's proposal that the Federal Government apologise to the victims of the 1988 judicial crisis.

Zaid was also quoted as saying that although the crisis was 20 years ago, an apology was needed as it was wrongly handled and that the then Lord President's sacking was inappropriate. He said the DAP also called on the Prime Minister to announce whether the Government was prepared to move an amendment to the Federal Constitution to outlaw party hopping.

“If the Prime Minister is not prepared to amend the Constitution, then I will propose a private members bill to outlaw party switching,” he added.