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# Karpal: Too late for Dr M

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## Mahathir should stop criticising Abdullah, says DAP MP

**PETALING JAYA:** There is no political mystery for Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to solve and his services are definitely not needed to criticise the Government, DAP adviser Karpal Singh said.

Responding to a letter in *The Star* by Dr Mahathir yesterday, Karpal Singh said there was no question of any conspiracy by the DAP or Pakatan Rakyat, as alluded to by Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir had said that the DAP wanted him to stop criticising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi so that the Opposition could continue to capitalise on Abdullah's

apparent weakness in the next general election.

However, Karpal Singh said he and Lim Kit Siang had not spared the Government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, including his ministers, from sometimes scathing criticism over policies undertaken by them.

"I repeat once again, Dr Mahathir should not drag himself further into the political mud by trying to resurrect his political career. It is too late," Karpal Singh said.

"Dr Mahathir should accept reality and let his successor carry out the mandate secured in the

recent election.

"The Opposition, in the form of 82 MPs, is more than enough to keep the Government in check. Dr Mahathir is not needed for that purpose," he said.

Karpal Singh said Dr Mahathir has a selective memory about "hanging lawyers" as he did not allude to a statement (in his letter) made at a meet-the-students session in London on Feb 2, 2000 - "I have a private wish to 'hang' errant lawyers, especially Karpal Singh."

"He could not have been joking in London. If he says even this utterance was a joke, then we had a joker

for a Prime Minister until Abdullah took over."

Karpal Singh added that Tun Hussein Onn had also put on record that he had made the wrong choice in choosing Dr Mahathir as his successor and that Dr Mahathir's reign was punctuated with acts of dictatorship, flagrant abuse of power and political dishonesty.

"He emasculated the judiciary in 1988 and in the process, humiliated and punished then Lord President, Tun Salleh Abas, the late Tan Sri Wan Suleiman Pawanteh and Datuk George Seah, while intimidating the Malaysian Bar."