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# 'Nik Aziz has led for too long'

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat should give others a chance at leading Kelantan, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad suggested yesterday.

"I think Nik Aziz has been there as menteri besar for a long time. But as we all know, Kelantan is the most backward state, and to a certain extent, Nik Aziz is responsible for (this).

"In other countries, people resign when they can't deliver," Dr Mahathir said.

He was asked if he thought it was time for Nik Aziz to step down, at a press conference after delivering a speech at the Corporate Governance Summit here yesterday.

Just over a week ago, Dr Mahathir also urged MIC chief Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to resign, saying he would otherwise become a liability to Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir pointed out that he himself had stepped down as

prime minister after 22 years to give others a chance.

"The problem with comfortable seats is that you don't want to get up at all, you just sit down," he remarked.

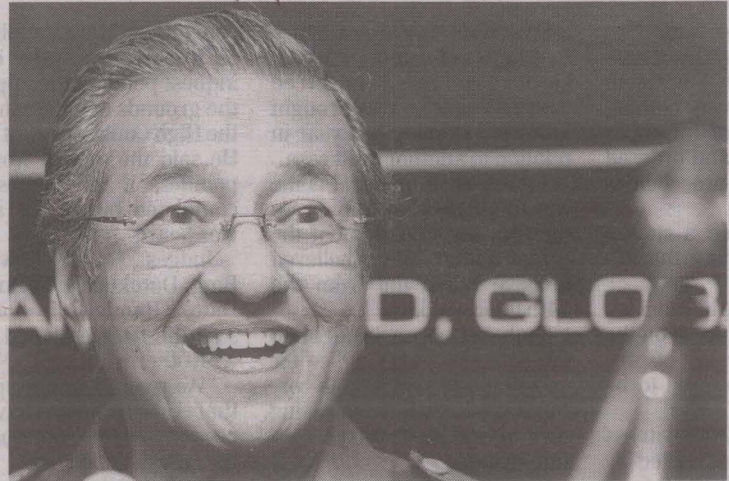
To another question, Dr Mahathir said listed companies should state in their accounts if they are funding political parties, adding that this would be in the spirit of good corporate governance.

"Companies should show in their accounts where they are spending their money. I think that is the responsibility of the company."

Dr Mahathir noted that in countries like the United States, there were suggestions that the government should be the one funding political parties.

This was, however, not well accepted as it was impractical trying to decide how much money to give to each party.

"As such, until now, I think in almost every country, funds had to be raised by political parties. And where do we get the funds if not the business people," he said, adding that this was something



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat is responsible for Kelantan being the most backward state.

that happened not just in Malaysia but "all over the world, even in Japan".

Transparency International (TI) Malaysia president Datuk Paul Low had recently said that there were many outstanding issues on corruption in Malaysia's private

sector, one of the biggest being the funding of political parties.

Low's comment followed the launch of the Global Corruption Report 2009 by TI, which showed that there was much to be done to get rid of corruption in the private sector here.