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Subservient judiciary: Mahathir role undeniable

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir Mohamad's role in assaulting the judiciary to the point that it was seen to be subservient was undeniable.

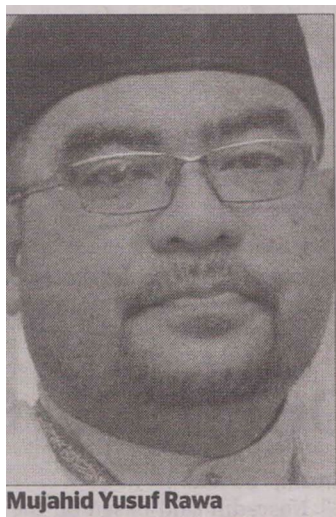
Parit Buntar parliamentary member Mujahid Yusuf Rawa said the former premier then "interfered" in the sacking of then Chief Justice, Tun Salleh Abbas.

Contacted Feb 14, he said Mahathir had to resort to such a measure after the judiciary declared Umno then to be illegal.

"It was a violation (of the principle of separation of powers), and the Opposition had highlighted this for quite a long time," he said.

He also added that the episode was a "black mark" in the history of the judiciary.

Mahathir however has dismissed a former chief justice's claim that the courts are subservient to politicians due to



Mujahid Yusuf Rawa

constitutional amendments made during his tenure as a lie.

"That's slander, but I won't sue them. That whole gang, they make unfounded accusations," he reportedly said.

"There was no such provision. If I had power, I would've replaced a lot of people if I could... It was

the King who wanted (Tun) Salleh Abas dropped."

Former Chief Justice Tun Mohd Dzaiddin Abdullah had said that the judiciary had become subservient because Dr Mahathir clipped its wings in the 1980s when he amended Article 121 of the Constitution.

"As a result of the amendment, the judicial powers of the courts were removed and they have only such judicial powers as Parliament gives," he said.

Mohd Dzaiddin, who once headed the country's courts, said the amendment was repugnant "because Parliament attempted to dictate to the judiciary that it only has judicial powers which Parliament itself says the judiciary has".

"This alters in my view in a very fundamental manner the basic structure of the Federal Constitution, from the concept of the independence of the Judiciary to dependence of the Judiciary on

the Executive for its judicial powers."

He added that the Judiciary should be completely independent of both the

Executive and Legislative arms of government and stressed that the courts should not be used as a tool for political expediency.- ES

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Feeling of helplessness and humiliation

having to walk out of the ambulances they are in to pass the checkpoint on foot before continuing back in the vehicles. What about the wanton blasting of Palestinian homes to make way for Zionist settlements?

And against this background of continued humiliation, we still have regimes running to help the perpetrators of terror. When the Mossad killed the Hamas official in Dubai by utilizing passports of several Western countries, none of these countries rushed to condemn it as a terrorist attack.

In fact France, which also had 4 of its passports manipulated by Zionist Israel in that mission had its president visiting Shalit the moment he was released in a prisoner exchange. Such subservience!

When Iran goes for nuclear technology it is wrong, but when Zionist Israel has more than 200 nuclear bombs, it does get condemned.

The Muslim regimes are so weak that they cannot even lift a finger to do something to stop the rot.- ES