

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	5 APRIL 2015

NEWS

MIC Youth chief ticks off Dr Mahathir

NST- 5/4/2015

'STRONGER': BN will win the next polls under Najib's leadership, says Sivarraajh

ADRIAN LAI

KUALA LUMPUR
adrianlai@nst.com.my

MIC Youth chief C. Sivarraajh has lashed out at former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for criticising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, saying Barisan Nasional will win the next general election under Najib's leadership.

The MIC leader said the former premier was in no position to openly criticise the current leadership.

"Take his rant for what it is — the rumblings of a man who must be forgiven for thinking he can still di-



C. Sivarraajh says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticism is aimed at undermining the prime minister

rect this country and order its new and elected bosses around.

"For better or for worse, the people have voted and elected Najib as the prime minister and, until the people

vote him out, he remains that," he said.

Brushing aside Dr Mahathir's claim that BN would lose the next general election if Najib did not step down, Sivarraajh said the ruling coalition would emerge stronger under the present leadership.

"Pakatan is crumbling and by the time the general election comes around, it will be a pale shadow of its former self.

"Without Pas, Pakatan is finished and credit will go to Najib, who made it possible."

Sivarraajh claimed that Dr Mahathir's verbal attack against Najib was aimed at undermining the prime minister.

"Dr Mahathir is worried that Najib will be stronger after the demise of Pakatan.

"That is why they are starting to attack Najib and find fault with him."

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir claimed that people of all races could no longer trust Najib as he had failed to provide answers to many

accusations hurled against him.

These include the murder of Mongolian model Altantuya Shaariibuu, involving Najib's former aide, Abdul Razak Baginda, the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) controversy and the purchase of a private jet for VVIP use.

"These are all issues used by Dr Mahathir to oust Najib.

"The purchase of the jet is for security purposes and to replace existing planes that are more than 16 years old.

"On 1MDB, people should give it time to get its act together. 1MDB expanded in too short a time and is now buffeted by external economic factors," Sivarraajh said.

He said it was not uncommon for Dr Mahathir to "pick fights" with the country's prime ministers.

"Look at how he hounded Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and got him to quit.

"Dr Mahathir and his supporters are feeling uneasy because Najib is making a big comeback and they want to upend it."