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MAHATHIR'S CRITICISMS

Let Najib do his job without hindrance

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I DON'T know whether it is proper for me, a nobody, to comment on Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to resign, as reported (PRS president comes to Najib's defence, NST, April 4).

Many are surprised that Dr Mahathir was so hard on Najib and that he had lost faith in his leadership when he bluntly said, "... BN would lose the 14th General Election if Najib did not step down...".

Before this, Dr Mahathir was not happy with any of his Number Two, beginning with Tun Musa Hitam right up to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. It was as if he was afraid of his own shadow. Or perhaps Dr Mahathir was very much influenced by his favourite book, Robert Greene's *48 Laws of Power*, which was Machiavellian in nature.

Dr Mahathir gave his blessings to Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as he thought Pak Lah was a great follower and "less intelligent". But when Pak Lah became prime minister, Dr Mahathir was shocked to see that the former was not a hippopotamus who hid under the water after all. Pak Lah turned out to be a rhinoceros. Dr Mahathir then launched a ferocious tirade against

Pak Lak which ended up in the latter's resignation.

Now, Dr Mahathir is not happy with Najib's leadership, and he has mercilessly attacked Najib and made insinuations in his blog. As a former prime minister and elder statesman, he could have easily had a talk with Najib over a cup of tea.

Dr Mahathir must lower himself and accept the fact that he is no more the prime minister, and that Najib also has his limits.

Assuming Najib resigns, who will be Dr Mahathir's choice? Much of the fault lies with Dr Mahathir, who, in his 22 years of prime ministership, did not prepare a solid succession plan as Lee Kuan Yew did.

The best thing is to let Najib do his job without hindrance. He is still new to the job compared to Dr Mahathir's 22 years of sterling leadership. He needs all the help that can be given, instead of unfounded criticism based on personal feelings.

After all, Najib has accommodated much of Dr Mahathir's needs for all to see. The people still have very high respect for him. His son, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, is now the Menteri Besar of Kedah, a position that surely will make him feel awkward to see his father

openly venting his anger at Najib.

Dr Mahathir cannot claim that he is now an ordinary man and free to make his comments. He may not be the prime minister anymore, but whatever he says will be quoted by the world media, which may have a negative impact on Malaysia.

Sabah and Sarawak leaders are happy with Najib, for whom PRS president Tan Sri James Masing openly said in defence of him, "Of the six prime ministers since 1963, Najib is the only one who really cares for Sarawak and Sabah's well-being. He allocated funds for the construction of the Pan-Borneo Highway, when previous prime ministers, including Dr Mahathir, couldn't care less."

It was not easy for Sarawak and Sabah leaders to say it in the open for all to know, but it has to be said to set the record straight. By saying it, it does not mean they have lost the love and respect for Dr Mahathir.

Meanwhile, the people will never forget the 22 years of Dr Mahathir's leadership par excellence, where a whole generation of Melayu Baru and high self-esteemed Malaysians, who are now in their mid-30s and early 40s, were brought up and are successful in their respective endeavours.

The administrative capital of the nation, Putrajaya, is testimony to Dr Mahathir's visionary leadership, for which successive prime ministers, including Najib, are ever thankful.

Even the Opposition, who at one time wanted to auction off Putrajaya if they came to power, now

want to have Putrajaya.

If there was a failure in Dr Mahathir's administration, it was that he introduced a half-baked solution to English proficiency by having Science and Mathematics taught in English.

He could have reintroduced English-medium schools, as nobody

then dared to question his decision, for he was a man of wisdom, vision, and had the Midas touch.

As the leadership baton has been passed, Malaysians from all walks of life can only pray that God will give his blessings to Najib to lead this country to greater heights.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir should

not feel slighted with some individuals who criticised him harshly in the social media by saying he was already senile. Malaysians from all walks of life will always pray for Dr Mahathir's good health.

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