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Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's demand for the prime minister to step down is not right

'Dr M should look in the mirror'

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KOTA MARUDU: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should "look himself in the mirror" before making demands on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to resign.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said Dr Mahathir's claim that he would have stepped down if the people felt he had failed as prime minister was not right.

"Maybe Dr Mahathir has forgotten. Many had asked him to step down before this but he had refused. In fact, 20 years ago, Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) asked him to step down because the party blamed him for allowing illegal immigrants to obtain citizenship in Sabah. He ignored our call.

"Today, he admits that there is such a thing as Project IC and that there is nothing wrong in giving citizenship to the immigrants simply for being in Sabah for a long time and having relatives here.

"By his admission, Project IC existed to provide citizenship to these people, ignoring the rules and laws on citizenship and eligibility," said Maximus, adding that PBS had always maintained that such an act amounted to treason.

Maximus, who is PBS deputy president, added that it was unacceptable to PBS that foreigners were given citizenship with their loyalty measured by their length of stay in Sabah.

"The admission of this automatic citizenship to these people is detrimental to Sabah and caused uneasiness among Sabahans," he said at the closing of the annual general meeting of PBS's branches in Mukim Ulu Bengkoka here two days ago.

Maximus said everyone respected Dr Mahathir for his contributions to the nation, but the former PM must realise that his criticisms against Najib were not good for Barisan Nasional's unity and strength.

On another issue, he cautioned the people to be vigilant against the threats and growing influence of the Islamic State group.