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# 'Blame Dr M, too, if BN loses'

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should share the blame if Barisan Nasional loses the next general election.

Sabah Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said Dr Mahathir's "prediction" that BN would lose the next general election if Prime Minister Najib Razak were not removed and replaced could end up a self-fulfilling prophecy if the people did not vote for the coalition because of what he had said.

"If that happens, Dr Mahathir has to share the blame. He is the one spreading panic with his doomsday talk," he said in a blog post on Thursday.

Salleh said Dr Mahathir had also cast doubts on Malaysia becoming a developed nation by 2020 and had said that a high per capita income did not equate development.

The former premier had said de-

velopment was not only about achieving a high gross domestic product (GDP) or per capita income.

"These alone do not mean that we are developed."

Dr Mahathir also admitted that it was an oversight on his part to have failed to properly define the meaning of developed nation when he first launched Vision 2020.

"Malaysia needs to make our own mould of what a developed nation is, not just copy what another country is doing," he had said.

Dr Mahathir then defined a developed nation as a nation that had the industrial capability to produce the latest technological products, a strong representation of educated people and a full understanding of the concept of democracy.

Salleh went on to say that Vision 2020 was merely a vague expression of aspiration.

"Most people did not even understand what Vision 2020 meant but were afraid to ask or did not want to appear stupid by asking.

"So it is understandable if it is not going to succeed, mainly because it was too vague, just like the Look East policy, which meaning many also failed to understand."

Salleh, who is former Sabah chief minister, said Dr Mahathir was trying to shift the blame for the failure of Vision 2020 onto somebody else, when Vision 2020 had failed because it was too idealistic and unrealistic.

"What does he mean when he says, 'Malaysia needs to make our own mould of what a developed nation is, not just copy what another country is doing'?"

"Can he explain the details? This is the problem with rhetoric and slogans that do not show us how they are supposed to work."