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Dr M: I should have stayed on as PM

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'SAD, DISAPPOINTED':
My time to lead nation has come and gone, says ex-PM

KUALA LUMPUR

FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who held the post for 22-years, said he sometimes felt that he should have stayed on as prime minister.

"Sometimes I feel sad, disap-

pointed and helpless...wrong things are done and we can't fix it.

"That is why I feel I should have stayed on as prime minister...but only sometimes."

However, Dr Mahathir said his time to lead the country had come and gone, but he can now give his opinion about how the country is run.

"To become the prime minister, that would be difficult. It is not my time, my time has passed. But if you want my opinion, that can be done," he said at the "Bicara Negerawan: You Are Not Alone" talk here.

Present were controversial lec-

turer Dr Ridhuan Tee, Abdullah, and Datuk Ibrahim Ali, president of Perkasa, the Malay rights group which co-hosted the forum.

Among issues he touched on were those concerning Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Malaysia Development Berhad and the Goods and Services Tax. Dr Mahathir said he had lobbied for Najib to become prime minister because of his gratitude to the latter's father, Tun Abdul Razak. Dr Mahathir said he was "grateful and thankful" to Razak, who was Malaysia's second prime minister, who paved the way for him to take over as prime minister.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he sometimes feels sad, disappointed and helpless

"He was my mentor and idol. And when you are grateful to someone who has died, you want to repay him through his children and grandchildren."

Dr Mahathir also reminisced that occupying the prime minister's of-

fice comes with privileges. He said an elected leader should always work for the people who voted them into power.

"All the power given to us must be used for the benefit of the people."