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Democracy is dead, says Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (*pix*) declared yesterday that "democracy in the country is dead".



"It is dead because an elected leader chooses to subvert the institutions of government and make them his instruments for sustaining himself," he wrote in his blog, *chedet.cc*

"There is no more democracy for anyone to undermine. Certainly talking about iMDB will not undermine something that no longer exists.

"What (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak is doing is unprecedented in Malaysia. The people are at a loss as to what to do," he said, adding that the prospect of Najib continuing to rule the country is utterly depressing.

Mahathir said with deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin dismissed, Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail sacked, the Cabinet reshuffled which saw four Public Accounts Committee (PAC) members elevated to deputy ministers and minister, investigation into the iMDB and the RM2.6 billion in Najib's private account has ground to a complete halt.

He also lamented that when the MACC continued its investigations and wanted to query Najib on the source of the money in his account, its officers were harassed by the police who accused them of leaking information, while those who had been

outspoken were suddenly transferred.

He added that Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, a member of the special task force, is now rumoured to be investigated for corruption.

Commenting on the claim that the RM2.6 billion transferred into Najib's account was a donation, Mahathir asked who in the world

would donate this amount to the Malaysian prime minister.

"Even US president (Barack Obama) could not raise this amount for his presidential bid. It was suggested it was an Arab. Arabs are generous, but not that generous. I could not raise even a single dollar from them for the Malaysian International Islamic University or for the Oxford Islamic Centre," he added.

Mahathir said it was absurd to say the RM2.6 billion was for elections.

"I needed less than RM10 million for each of the five elections I presided over and I won them all with more than two-thirds majority. Why do you need RM2.6 billion plus? Is it to bribe politicians and civil servants, or to rig the elections? he asked.

"I used to enjoy being asked about Malaysia when I am abroad. But not now. The foreigners and Malaysians living abroad ask, 'What is happening to Malaysia? It seems to be like one of those African or Arab countries. It is totally corrupt. The currency has depreciated.' I cannot answer truthfully. I cannot lie either. It is embarrassing," said Mahathir.