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PRIME NEWS

Dr M's loyalty to Umno questioned

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BLOG: Ex-PM's actions have hurt party and he will be blamed if it fares badly in polls, says Salleh

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COMMUNICATIONS and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak has questioned former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's loyalty to Umno.

In a blog post yesterday, Salleh said Dr Mahathir's past actions had hurt Umno and fingers would be pointed at him if the party was to suffer in the next general election.

"Dr Mahathir said he does not wish to destroy the party and that his loyalty to Umno and Barisan Nasional has never wavered. Maybe he forgot that during his quarrel with one-time Umno president and (former) prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he had resigned from Umno.

"Because of his personal differences with the Umno leader, he (Dr Mahathir) left the party," Salleh said, adding that this proved Dr Mahathir's loyalty to the party did waver.

The Sabah deputy state Umno chief said because of Dr Mahathir's resignation and "roadshow" to oppose Abdullah and telling

Malaysians to teach Umno and BN a lesson, Umno and BN did badly in the 2008 elections.

"The ruling party also lost five states in that election, the first time such a thing ever happened.

"How can Dr Mahathir talk about his loyalty to the party and to the coalition when his actions actually hurt the party and the coalition?"

"The same thing is happening now, and if Umno and BN do suffer in the next general election, it will be because of what Dr Mahathir is doing."

Salleh said when Dr Mahathir was prime minister, he did not allow others to say what he was now saying.

"He says it is not wrong to criticise and that the No. 2 should criticise the No. 1. When Dr Mahathir was the party president and prime minister, he did not tolerate criticism from Tun Musa Hitam and (Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim, or even from the then Umno Youth leader (Datuk Seri Dr) Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"He said that there should be a proper platform for this, and it should be an internal matter, not an act of washing dirty linen in public."

Salleh ended the post by saying Dr Mahathir was accusing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak of restructuring the party voting system to stay in power.

"It was Dr Mahathir who introduced the bonus-vote system and the 'no challenge for No. 1 and No. 2' rule to prevent anyone from challenging him."



Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak