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PM: Bigger mess is Dr M's doing

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the alleged "bigger mess" that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had accused him of is largely the latter's own doing.

"The 'mess' that Tun refers to is largely of his own making as a result of his attacks and echoing of the opposition's lies and slander," the prime minister said in the frequently asked questions section of his blog, najibrazak.com.

Najib said the allegations had been amplified through the Internet and were something that Dr Mahathir did not have to face when he was prime minister.

He said Dr Mahathir had been taken in by the democratisation of information on social media, where all information, no matter how untrue, was treated as the truth.

"Just because a lie is spread a thousand times, it does not make it true. With such an onslaught online, it's not surprising that Tun thinks there is a bigger 'mess' today," Najib said.

He also addressed criticism levelled against him and his administration on the 1Malaysia Development Bhd issue, Goods and Services Tax, 1Malaysia People's Aid, purchase of an official jet and Sabah security concerns.

Acknowledging that the current administration was not without challenges, he said the government's track record over the past six years showed that the government was making things better for all Malaysians.

"And, we'll continue to deliver on our promises to transform the economy, government and country as we reach Vision 2020," he said, urging Malaysians to keep the faith and work towards this, rather than fight among themselves.

Najib reminded Umno and Barisan Nasional members, along with all Malaysians, not to be taken in every time Dr Mahathir attacked.

Asking that they take a step back and analyse the facts when this happened, he said what Dr Mahathir highlighted were allegations, as he knew that was the way "to influence the people's minds against the current government and me".

Najib said Dr Mahathir did many noble and great things as prime minister, but he was no longer running the administration.

"Even if I step down, Tun will continue to intervene in the country's administration. He can say he is simply exercising his democratic right as a citizen, but this is Tun Mahathir."

He said people had the tendency to believe whatever Dr Mahathir said even if it was not accurate, and this had a significant effect on public perception, as the former prime minister was not an ordinary citizen.

"There are reasons why most former heads of state across the world don't intervene in the work of current administrations, as whatever they say can easily affect the system." **Bernama**