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PRIME NEWS

'Dr M's criticisms have no basis'

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'NO BENEFIT':

Attacks on PM give negative perception, says ambassador

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MALAYSIAN ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Seri Zahrain Mohamed Hashim has appealed to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to stop his attacks against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said considering Dr Mahathir's esteemed position as a statesman (and former prime minister), his criticisms against Najib were rather demeaning.

"Tun (Dr Mahathir)'s attacks

seem rather personal. His accusations have no basis.

"They are mostly hearsay, and most of the criticisms have been used time and again by the opposition.

"I am surprised that Dr Mahathir is critical of the administration, which, when you come to think of it, was put in place during his term as prime minister," he said at the Malaysian embassy here yesterday.

Zahrain had earlier briefed reporters on Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's three-day working visit to Indonesia, which begins later today.

The Malaysian envoy said Dr Mahathir's constant barrage of criticisms against Najib gave a negative perception of Najib to his foreign counterparts, when in fact, most of them held Najib in high regard and believed he was a good leader.

For instance, he said, Indonesian President Joko Widodo saw it fitting to pay a courtesy visit

to Najib, adding that Malaysia was the first country that Joko visited after he was elected president.

"I do not know what Dr Mahathir's agenda is.

"In 2008, Barisan Nasional lost two-thirds majority in the country's 12th general election.

"This was mostly because of Dr Mahathir's harsh criticism of the administration then.

"It does not bring any benefit. Please, for the sake of the country, stop," he said.

Meanwhile in **Kuching**, Sarawak BN, led by chairman Tan Sri Adenan Satem, had also voiced its support for Najib.

"All I can say is we are all for the prime minister (Najib).

"We have been supporting him and will continue to do so.

"I believe all BN component parties, especially in Sabah and Sarawak, are and will always be with him," he said at the state legislative assembly complex here yesterday.