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Stop attacks, Dr M urged

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'UNHEALTHY': Umno grassroots leaders stand up for Najib

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A GROUP of Umno grassroots leaders has come out in defence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak following attacks by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Describing Dr Mahathir's attacks as "relentless", the Kelana Jaya Umno branch leaders said his vitriol against Najib would only split up the party and country.

The group, led by Sungei Way Umno branch chief Ishak Maarof, said Dr Mahathir should not criticise a democratically elected leader like Najib.

"With Dr Mahathir attacking Najib continuously, we, as grassroots leaders, are worried that it may make people more confused. If this continues, it will not bring any benefit to Barisan Nasional and the leadership.

"What is happening will be taken advantage of by the opposition and those who have ill intentions to destroy the party," he said here yesterday.

Ishak, in urging Dr Mahathir to stop attacking Najib, said the current leadership should be allowed to serve its term until a new one was elected.

"It is better for us to wait for a better time and platform to choose the party president or prime minister. The party polls are not too far away, so if we change it now, we are worried more problems will arise."

Ishak said as no leader was perfect, Najib should be given a chance to improve his administration and correct any mistake that occurred during his tenure.

"He is the party president and prime minister. Like it or not, we have to support him until the time when we get to choose a new leader. We have to help him govern the country. Support from all levels is important.

"For us, the grassroots, we urge Dr Mahathir to stop the attacks, as they are unhealthy for the party and leadership. Worse still, we are the ones who have to talk to people on the ground," he said, adding that the grassroots would not be able to counter the issue if the attacks persisted.

Ishak said it was unfair for Dr Mahathir to compare Najib's leadership to his own.

"If we follow the old ways, it may not be suitable for today's world and as an influential statesman, Dr Mahathir should guide current leaders to strive to be better."

Ishak, together with leaders from 11 other branches, said they felt compelled to make their voices heard.

"We are doing this to save the party, not to protect Najib. No matter who is leading the country, if we feel the leadership is not suitable, we will change it when the time comes."



Ishak Maarof says the grassroots leaders want to save Umno

'Dr M's criticisms must be fair'

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KOTA BARU: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad can criticise Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak, but his criticisms must be fair.

Pasir Putih Umno division chief Zawawi Othman, who is also Semarak assemblyman, said Dr Mahathir should not simply condemn Najib and his administration without giving the prime minister the opportunity to explain.

"Dr Mahathir will only make people hate him. We want to tell Dr Mahathir that Pasir Putih is behind the party president and prime minister.

"He is a great leader, who turned Malaysia into a successful country," Zawawi said after leading a peace gathering in support of Najib.

He said the 228 branches in the

division pledged their undivided support for Najib, as he was the most suitable person to lead the country.

"No one should doubt his capability. The prime minister has brought a lot of benefit to Umno and Barisan Nasional, and this must be respected by all."

Some 400 Umno members took part in the gathering in Kampung Pulau Lima here yesterday.

Pak Lah: Let Najib run govt his way

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticisms of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's leadership do not bring any good to Umno and society.

Najib should be given the opportunity to run the government his way," Abdullah said after opening a seminar titled "Biodiversity and Conservation: Crisis and Future Challenges" here yesterday.

He said this when asked to comment on criticisms against Najib by Dr Mahathir.

Abdullah believed that as prime minister, Najib knew how to react to criticisms against his administration for the sake of the people.

Bernama