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PM admits feeling slighted by Dr M's personal attacks The Star 9/12/2015

KUALA LUMPUR; Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak admitted that he was hurt by the personal attacks launched at him by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Najib, who is also Umno president, said he could accept the criticisms made by the former prime minister if they were against his policies and administration.

"But he voiced out his opinions on matters that are too personal," he said in an interview with TV3 in conjunction with Umno General Assembly 2015.

Najib also said Dr Mahathir did not practise

what he preached - that when a leader was no longer in the government, he or she should always support the government of the day.

"That's what he used to say. But in many cases, it was obvious to me that he did not practise what he preached when he was in the government," he said.

The Prime Minister also expressed disappointment with Dr Mahathir for criticising his leadership more often than reprimanding the Opposition, especially through his blog postings.

This, said Najib, made it necessary for him

and the party leadership to give ever increasing explanations to the people and party members about issues raised by Dr Mahathir, which he described as mere perceptions and assumptions.

On Dr Mahathir's proposal to have a council of elders be set up to guide the Prime Minister in administrative matters, Najib said such a proposal had never occurred in Malaysia or in any other country.

In fact, Najib said there was no provision in the Constitution related to the formation of a council that would override the powers of

the Cabinet and the Supreme Council.

"It is not that I don't respect him as a statesman, but I am holding onto the principle that I am the legitimate Prime Minister elected by the people. I am also the president elected by the party.

"I'm not one to not listen to advice or the views of others. But in the end, I have to make a decision on what I think is the best for the country and the party," he said.

He also spoke about the need to maintain unity in Umno, an issue which troubled him. — Bernama