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Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	20 June 2015



KUALA LUMPUR: Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia (SAMM) founder Badrul Hisham Shaharin says he is not surprised by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's refusal to debate with him.

Badrul Hisham, also known as Chegubard, claimed the former premier was afraid to openly debate several "spandals" that occurred during his 22 years in office.

"I have already anticipated that Dr Mahathir would not be brave enough to debate with me.

"He is afraid of answering questions on the Anancial scandals and bailouts that took place when he was prime minister.

"Dr Mahathir keeps saying that he is clean, but we are left wondering — how was it possible for his children to become multibillionaires in such a short period?" he said in a statement yesterday.

Chegubard, who is a PKR member, said Dr Mahathir was unable to explain how his family managed to lead luxurious lives.

"(PKR de facto ieadler) Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and I know that Dr Mahathir's children are not good in business.

"So, how did they become multibillionaires in three years?

"That is why he pretends not to know me. I feel proud that Dr Mahathir does not dare to confront me.

"He is oniy great at (speaking) when surrounded by his followers."

On Tuestiay, Chegubard called former prime minister Dr Mahathir to the "hot seat" and to take part in the #Nothing2Hide programme to answer questions raised by the public during his 22 years of premiership.

Dr Mahathir responded the next day by callingthegubard a *kucing kurap* (stray cat) from PKR.

Dr Mahathir instead challenged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to a live debate on television, saying he was prepared to answer questions about his reign as prime minister.

"When Dr Mahathir was the prime minister, why wasn't he brave enough to challenge Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Hussein Onn, Tun Musa Hitam or Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to debates?

"Now that he is a normal citizen, he wants to debate with the prime minister. It is illogical for a prime minister to debate with a former prime minister from the same political party."

Chegubard said Dr Mahathir was only qualifiedto debate with him, as both came from different parties.

"Dr Mahathir is from Umno and I am from PKR.

"If he was from PKR, then it would be foolish of me to challenge him to a debate because members from the same party should respect each other," he said.