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'Don't be swayed by comments'

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PREMATURE: Ignore personal attacks, stay united, ex-CM tells Umno members

ZAFIRA ANWAR
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my



Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak urges Umno members to stay united to strengthen the party

SABAH State Assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said yesterday that Umno stood to lose following Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticism against prime minister and party president Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The former premier had written a critical blog posting on Friday calling for an immediate police forensic audit of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Salleh, a former Sabah chief minister, warned Umno members to be

careful when dealing with criticism that carried elements of personal attacks.

He advised them not to be influenced by comments made only from a single point of view.

"After reading Dr Mahathir's writings, I feel that Umno is the one that stands to lose.

"I say this because of the waning support for Umno which will worsen the situation.

"BN and Umno will become weak and this, in turn, will make the government unstable," Salleh said in his blog.

Salleh believed that Dr Mahathir's blog entries were mainly targeted at

Najib and belligerent in nature.

For example, Salleh said following Najib's announcement that the auditor-general would independently scrutinise 1MDB accounts in a show of transparency, Dr Mahathir had prematurely moved to criticise.

In echoing Najib's speech during the Kedah Umno convention on Saturday, Salleh said Umno members need to stay united to strengthen the party in preparation for the general election.

"Winning the next GE must be Umno's priority and all personal interests must be set aside.

"Team spirit is the 'pull factor' in reducing internal problems.

"Do not create two teams in one party because that would force members to choose sides," he said, citing Najib's lines in his speech.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad called for a police forensic audit of 1Malaysia Development Berhad