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'Give Najib space to do his job'

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KUCHING: Umno members should give Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak the time and space to carry out his work for the betterment of Malaysians instead of criticising him, said Tan Sri Dr James Masing.

The Parti Rakyat Sarawak president said the strength of any political organisation depended on its solidarity and its members staying together.

"Criticisms by members are acceptable only if they are meant to strengthen the party and not to topple leaders.

"Umno is no exception to this rule," he said yesterday.

Masing, who is also state land development minister, said it was disappointing and unacceptable for

former prime minister and Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to go against Najib in his criticisms, especially on Malaysia Development Berhad (MADB).

Dr Mahathir had written a critical blog posting last Friday, calling for an immediate police forensic audit on MADB.

"The prime minister had asked the relevant agencies to do an audit on it (MADB). Let them do their work.

"Let Najib do his work. Give him and his people the time and space to carry out their work," he said.

Masing said Dr Mahathir was given 22 years to administer the country and did an excellent job despite criticisms about his administration.

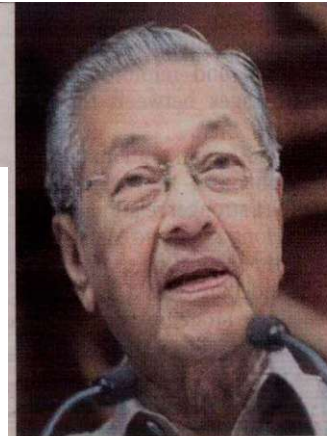
So, please give Najib the time to prove his worth and don't interfere prematurely," he said.

Masing's statement echoed Sabah assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak's call last Sunday for Umno members to be careful when dealing with criticism that carried elements of personal attacks, as the party stood to lose following Dr Mahathir's criticism against Najib.

He advised Umno members not to be influenced by comments made 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



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is calling for a police forensic audit on MADB



Tan Sri Dr James Masing says time should be given to the prime minister and his team

worsen the situation.

"Barisan Nasional and Umno will become weak and this, in turn, will make the government unstable," Salleh wrote in his blog, adding that he believed that Dr Mahathir's blog

entries were mainly targeted at Najib and belligerent in nature.

He also wrote that Umno members needed to stay united to strengthen the party in preparation for the general election.