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'Dr M has met his Waterloo'

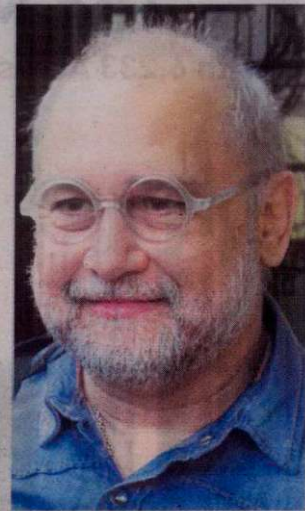
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'LICKING HIS WOUNDS': Dr Mahathir's campaign to draw MPs from both sides of the political divide to vote against 2016 Budget and oust Najib comes to naught

KUALA LUMPUR



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad appears to have emerged as the new opposition leader



Raja Petra Kamarudin says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad no longer has a hold on Umno and BN

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad may have Anally met his Waterloo after failing to oust Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak by campaigning against the 2016 Budget, a blogger said.

Raja Petra Kamarudin believes the former prime minister may have come to his final battle, or Waterloo, which was French general Napoleon Bonaparte's severe defeat some 200 years ago.

In his blog post, Raja Petra said Dr Mahathir was confident of getting 112 votes against the budget.

To succeed, Dr Mahathir needed 88 members of parliament (MPs) from the opposition and 24 from Barisan Nasional (BN) to vote.

Hopes were pinned on 14 Pas MPs joining the vote, failing which they needed 38 BN MPs to make the number, which Raja Petra deemed the "magic figure".

"Dr Mahathir was confident he had the numbers — and not just 112, probably 120 or more."

"But what he got instead was just 74, with 128 voting in support of the budget and another 20 abstaining (or 19 abstaining since Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Gelang Patah) could not vote because he has been suspended from Parliament for six months)," he said on online news blog, Malaysia Today.

"So far, we have not heard a word from Dr Mahathir. He is probably still recovering from shell shock and is licking his wounds.

"He was so sure he had a hold on Umno and Barisan Nasional plus the entire opposition was behind him, so there was no way he could fail.

"But fail he did and many people lost money on betting that he would succeed," he said, while drawing an anecdote of a £100 (RM670) bet he

took with his friend that Malaysia's longest-serving prime minister would fail in his bid to oust Najib and the leader would remain in office for Christmas and beyond.

"In more than 50 years, Dr Mahathir has never failed. But when it comes to politics, he always wins in the end and no one can survive a Dr Mahathir onslaught.

"Najib, however, has survived onslaught after onslaught and yesterday's final putsch supposed to drum him out of Putrajaya was an epic disaster for Dr Mahathir that is going to be forever remembered and will be a case study for students of political science for generations to come."

He said the message was hence "crystalclear".

"Dr Mahathir no longer has a hold on Umno and BN like he believes he has. Even those dissidents in Umno who appeared to be with him did not walk the talk yesterday.

"They abandoned Dr Mahathir to be slaughtered all alone while they twiddled their thumbs," he added.

Raja Petra, however, pointed out that Dr Mahathir now appeared to have emerged as the new opposition leader as, except for several MPs from Pas and independents, most of them did as he bade.

He said that the vote by them was a show of support for Dr Mahathir, who led them to believe that by voting against the budget, they would be able to oust the prime minister.

"The opposition will now have to explain to the rakyat why they voted against the budget. And they would be hard-pressed to do that because there is no valid reason other than because Dr Mahathir asked them to.

"So who do the opposition members of parliament work for, the rakyat or Dr Mahathir?" he said, adding that even Pas and indepen-

dent MPs had said the budget was not all bad and needed some fine-tuning.

"Dr Mahathir led the opposition members of parliament by the nose, like cows being led to the slaughterhouse. And they allowed themselves to be led to the slaughterhouse and were slaughtered yesterday together with their cowherd, Dr Mahathir.

"So does this make the opposition members of parliament 'lembu' Dr Mahathir (Dr Mahathir's cows)?"

He further quoted Dr Mahathir as saying that Malaysians had a herd mentality.

Raja Petra claimed this was ironically proven yesterday when he turned opposition MPs into his herd of cows with him as their cowherd.

"And cowhethds have only one objective at the end of the day, to slaughter his cows when the time is ripe.

"And they were slaughtered good and proper yesterday when they were led to believe that if they voted against the budget, then another 30 members of parliament from BN will join them and Najib would not

see Christmas as prime minister."

Raja Petra said this was the "problem with the opposition".

"They lack direction and do not have a real leader. The opposition has never been a potent force to be reckoned with," he said, adding that in 1990, it appeared like the fortunes of the opposition was to change with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, a then ex-Umno leader at the helm.

Three coalitions (one on the East Coast, one on the West Coast, and another in Sabah) were formed to take on Umno and BN, but they only managed to capture Kelantan.

"In 1999, the opposition tied themselves to yet another ex-Umno leader, (Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim, but still could not oust Umno and BN.

"And now with Anwar in jail, they cling to yet another Umno ex-leader, DrMahathir.

"For the last 25 years, the opposition has always depended on ex-Umno leaders to lead them.

"Maybe (Tan Sri) Muhyiddin Yassin can offer his services as the new opposition leader to replace Dr Mahathir, Anwar and Tengku Razaleigh," he said.