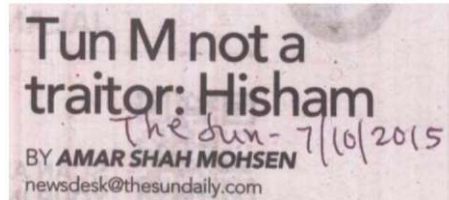


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Newspaper	The Sun
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KUALA LUMPUR: Despite being a vocal critic of the prime minister and the government, former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not a traitor to the party, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (*pix*) said.

He admitted that he had said in his previous tweets that sometimes those who made allegations against Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak were constantly shifting their goalposts.

"But if we look at it from the party's perspective, it is not a betrayal," he told a press conference after the pre-launch of the Malaysian United Run at the Defence Ministry yesterday.



Hishammuddin, who is defence minister, said the accusations made by Mahathir on Najib's leadership were not new, but reminded that it should not go on as it could affect the party.

"But if you ask whether he has affected the party, I think no. Before this, many accusations had been thrown at our party president but the party did not break up."

Mahathir had on Oct 3 urged voters in Pekan not to vote for their MP Najib, who is also Umno president, at the next general election.

On the seven Umno members to be investigated and currently being monitored for "tamishing" the image of the party and country, Hishammuddin said he does not know who the seven are.

He however said such actions were a norm.