

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	27 September 2015

'Voters, not Dr M, made Najib PM'

NST-27/9/2015

'DELUSIONAL': Former prime minister should not think that he alone decides who should lead the country, says Salleh

ROZANNA LATIFF
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

COMMUNICATIONS and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak yesterday accused Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad of being "delusional" for claiming that he had worked hard to make Datuk Seri Najib Razak the country's prime minister.

Salleh said Dr Mahathir was not Najib's boss nor employer who could hire or fire him as he wished.

"Some may even call it delusional that one man can think he decides who should or should not lead

the country, as if the democratic system in how we choose leaders and governments no longer exists," Salleh wrote on his personal blog.

He was responding to Dr Mahathir's latest blog entry, posted on Friday, in which the former prime

minister claimed that he had fought hard to have Najib appointed as prime minister.

"But now I want him removed. It's nothing personal," Dr Mahathir had written, citing allegations regarding Najib's involvement in the Malaysia

Development Bhd (1MDB) controversy and the 2007 murder of Mongolian model and translator Altantuya Shaari-ibuu.

Defending the prime minister, Salleh said Najib was the true leader

of Umno as he had been elected by the party's members and had led Barisan Nasional to victory in the 2013 General Election.

Salleh also reminded Dr Mahathir that his own premiership had been marred by claims of fraud, referring

to the 1987 challenge to Dr Mahathir's presidency, which had led to Umno being deregistered.

"So, in 2013, it was the people or the voters, and not Dr Mahathir, who made Najib the prime minister. Dr Mahathir was just one voter amongst 11 million voters.

"And it was Umno that chose Najib as its president. Therefore, that makes him the legitimate leader of Umno elected by the members.

"At least, there are no allegations of fraud during the party elections and Najib did not deregister Umno to cover up that fraud like Bapa Merdeka, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman, alleged Dr Mahathir did in 1987."

Salleh said Dr Mahathir could only claim to have made his successor Tun Abdullah Badawi prime minister, having appointed him as his deputy before eventually resigning and handing over the reins to Abdul-

lah.

"But it was Abdullah who appointed Najib as his deputy. So, if anyone can claim that he made Najib the prime minister, then probably Abdullah is the one who can make that claim."



**Datuk Seri
Salleh Said
Keruak**



**Tun Dr
Mahathir
Mohamad**