

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	2 March 2016

Khaled: Dr M's bid based on whims

NST-2/3/2016

JOHOR BARU: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's bid to remove Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak from office is a struggle centred on individual whims and is undemocratic, said Johor Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Khaled Nordin.

Expressing disappointment about Dr Mahathir's decision to quit Umno, Khaled said Dr Mahathir could have at least carried out his mission on a proper platform.

"Umno is not about one leader, but about the party as a whole. Dr Mahathir's bid to unseat Najib could have been done through the party's elections, but instead, it was done in an improper manner."

Khaled, who is also menteri besar, said Dr Mahathir seemed to prioritise his personal opinion about one leader over the party's struggle.

"We chose to join Umno not because of one leader, but because of the party's struggle."

"Dr Mahathir's decision has disappointed us. While we appreciate his contributions, his action is inappropriate," Khaled said after the "Exco Away Day" event at Persada International Convention Centre here.

Other Umno leaders said Dr Mahathir's decision would not adversely affect the party.

Supreme Council member Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim said Barisan Nasional won the general election in 2008 after Dr Mahathir had quit Umno for the first time.

"Umno and BN continue to exist. Dr Mahathir leaving the party does not affect the people's support for us."

He said this after paying a courtesy call as Selangor Youth Council president to the Selangor Road Transport Department headquarters yesterday.

Another Supreme Council member, Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi, said he believed Dr Mahathir's decision was to pressure Najib to resign.

"He (Dr Mahathir) did it in 2008 to send a message to Pak Lah (former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi), which was to demand for the latter's resignation. Dr Mahathir is repeating the strategy against Najib."

Pas said it was nothing new for Dr Mahathir to leave Umno whenever he was at loggerheads with the party leadership.

"Dr Mahathir has done it many times."

"He had left Umno when he was unhappy with Abdullah, who was prime minister then."

"He joined Umno again when Najib became the prime minister, but decided to quit when he was unhappy with him," said Pas vice-president Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah.