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'Dr M ruining Umno for own gain'

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ANIMOSITY: Ex-PM working against party he once helmed, says Salleh

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad is seeking to ruin Umno for personal political gains, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak.

Commenting on Dr Mahathir's open letter, which called on Umno branch members to reject party president Datuk Seri Najib Razak's leadership, Salleh said it was clear that the former prime minister was working against the party he had once helmed.

Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak

"Dr Mahathir's stand is contradictory. He wrote an open letter that clearly showed his intention to wreck Umno.

"His writings are filled with animosity towards Najib.

"It is clear Dr Mahathir has a lot of political ambition.

"He tried to show that he is better than Najib, even equating himself with the likes of past prime ministers, whereas his behaviour does not reflect his real personality," Salleh wrote in a blog post yesterday.

Salleh said Dr Mahathir was against those who did not conform to his views.

"He is criticising the party by making accusations, when he has left the fight.

"Not only is it evident that he does not love Umno, but (Dr Mahathir) intends to destroy this party.

"If his intention is to defend Umno, he should not have conspired with the party's political enemy," he said.

In **Kota Baru**, Kelantan Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said Dr Mahathir's call would not affect support for Najib's leadership.

Mustapa said Umno grassroots leaders and members were clear on the party's direction.

"We have clarified to members on the political situation in the party.

"We doubt that they are easily duped into falling for any 'trap'," said Mustapa after a meet-and-greet session with civil servants at Wisma Persekutuan here yesterday.

Mustapa said the 2,000 Umno branches in Kelantan were generally in favour of Najib.

In **Port Klang**, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim said the party was united under Najib, and Dr Mahathir no longer commanded influence over members.

"Umno leaders and the party's grassroots are united under Najib's leadership, and this assures political stability.

*Kelantan Umno liaison committee chief **Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed** (right) greeting civil servants at Wisma Persekutuan in **Kota Baru** yesterday.* Pic by Fathil Asri

"Dr Mahathir has no locus standi because he is no longer an Umno member.

"We need to get out of this political polemic and focus on the people.

"Otherwise, people will get bored with the never-ending politicking," said Irmohizam after officiating at a Free Market programme in Taman Seri Pendamar here yesterday.

Additional reporting by Kalbana Perimbayanagam