

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	31 March 2016

# 'Dr M's resentment may be due to son's failure in party'

NST - 31/3/2016

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir's failure to thrive in Umno may explain his father Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's resentment towards the party and its leaders, said Tan Sri Annuar Musa.

"We can understand that at his (Dr Mahathir's) age, he wants to see his son's political career flourish.

"When that didn't work out, he became offended by Umno and its leaders who didn't give way (for Mukhriz)," said Annuar when met at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Annuar said Mukhriz was given ample opportunities in Umno and the government administration, despite losing his Umno posts during previous party elections.

He recalled a time when Mukhriz, who had lost when contesting for Umno division chief, later contested the Umno Youth chief post.

"We accepted when he contested the Umno Youth chief post. No one who had lost at the division level had contested for the post.

"He also contested for Umno vice-president (when) no leader (in the past) who had lost his Youth chief post would run for that post.

"Despite this, he was given the opportunity to be Kedah's menteri besar, but he had also failed. The state Umno members couldn't do anything.

"As a father, I understand Dr Mahathir's disappointment when efforts to see his son rise did not work.

"And it seems like the frustration



Umno Supreme Council member **Tan Sri Annuar Musa** says people enjoy more freedom under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak

was taken out on Umno.

"In his heart, I believe he understands that he shouldn't be doing what he is doing, but he doesn't have a choice. So, just let him be. We can manage Umno well," said the Umno information chief.

On suggestions that Dr Mahathir be investigated for sedition, Annuar said he would leave it to the authorities.

He said people enjoyed more freedom under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, with Malaysians given the freedom to organise rallies and come up with political statements, compared with the time during

Dr Mahathir's tenure.

"Use this freedom of speech wisely. The people are wiser and can judge for themselves.

"During his (Dr Mahathir's) time, he said street politics was not our way and that we should abide by the rules.

"We knew how we had to defend Dr Mahathir when Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched a series of street demonstrations that lasted for months and even years.

"But we are now confused because what he had said previously is different (now)," said Annuar, who is also an Umno Supreme Council member.

Annuar also refuted claims that Gua Musang member of parliament Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was collecting members' signatures for a no-confidence motion against the prime minister.

"It is impossible. I am a member of parliament and I am a friend of Ku Li (Tengku Razaleigh). He is more consistent compared with Dr Mahathir.

"There might be certain quarters trying to use his influence in certain situations.

"That is possible. I have just heard about it."

He said that the next Umno Supreme Council meeting had yet to be decided.

Umno secretary-general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor had said that it was up to the council whether Mukhriz and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin should be sacked for their involvement in the movement to oust Najib.