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Umno veterans hurt by Dr M's action

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IPOH: Umno veterans are "heartbroken" over Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to collude with the opposition.

At a gathering at the menteri besar's (MB) official residence here yesterday, Umno Veterans' Club chairman Tan Sri Mohammad Tajol Rosli Ghazali said party members were hurt by Dr Mahathir's actions.

"The opposition parties were once his enemies. If a statesman like Dr Mahathir is willing to sell his dignity and work with the opposition, it is hard for us to accept it.

"Our love and respect for Dr Mahathir have since been broken. Sorry, sir (Dr Mahathir), it is not that we love you less, but we love Umno and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak more," Tajol said.

He said during the 22 years of Dr Mahathir's reign as prime minister, Umno had experienced several difficult episodes, including the power tussle between Team A and Team B in 1987, followed by Umno being banned.

The former Perak MB said Umno's resilience depended on its members' unity, loyalty and commitment to serve the people.

"This is the basis for Umno's strength and continuity. If these



Perak Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir** and Umno Veterans' Club chairman **Tan Sri Mohammad Tajol Rosli Ghazali** pledging their loyalty to Umno at a gathering at the menteri besar's official residence in Ipoh yesterday. Bernama pic

principles are challenged, it spells bad news for Umno and Malays."

However, he described the challenges facing Umno as extraordinary.

"This time, the party is attacked from within by a group whom we elected as leaders."

On the attack by Dr Mahathir on Najib, Tajol expressed his concern

that it might lead to the fall of Umno.

"As Umno members, we should not be used as a tool and dance to the tune of other parties."

In **George Town**, veterans' club national secretary Datuk Mustapha Yaakub led about 250 members to declare their support for Najib.

Mustapha said Umno veterans were aware that Dr Mahathir's crusade against the prime minister stemmed from a personal agenda, which led to the Mahathir-Kit Siang Declaration.

"The declaration does not represent the people's sentiments and aspirations."