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Retire gracefully, Dr M told

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should retire gracefully and not conduct himself like a young political activist, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak.

Salleh said he was disappointed with the former premier, who was among the speakers at a public forum titled "PAC IMDB Report: Najib Complicit or Innocent?" in Shah Alam on Thursday night.

He said the forum was unnecessary as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) had already released its report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"The PAC has already released its investigation report and its deputy chairman, too, has given his statement," Salleh said yesterday.

Salleh also said Dr Mahathir was

no longer an Umno member, and that he had no legal and moral legitimacy to speak on behalf of Umno.

"And Umno has chosen Datuk Seri Najib Razak as the prime minister."

A fierce critic of Najib's administration, Dr Mahathir had, in recent months, attempted to link the prime minister to 1MDB's alleged financial mismanagement. Dr Mahathir is also heading the "Save Malaysia" campaign, a so-called democratic movement to oust Najib from power.

PAC deputy chairman and DAP stalwart Dr Tan Seng Giaw, however, had said Najib should not be held accountable for 1MDB's affairs.

He had also said PAC did not find any evidence to suggest that Najib was involved in the strategic investment company's alleged misappropriation of funds.

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Jaringan Melayu Malaysia secretary-general Hamdan Mohd Salleh said Dr Mahathir's claim was hypocritical.

"The late Karpal Singh was released from detention after he was arrested during Op Lalang because the court ruled that the detention order was defective.

"Dr Mahathir, who was home minister at the time, said he just signed the papers presented to him without reading them.

"It is, therefore, unwise for Dr Mahathir to lead a so called democratic movement to oust Najib," said Hamdan.

Besides Dr Mahathir, also present at the forum were DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang and PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli.