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Rahman urges Dr M to 'retire quietly'

> 'Don't subject yourself to further humiliation'

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PETALING JAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad must accept the democratic will of the people even if it goes against his personal interests, said Barisan Nasional (BN) strategic communications director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

"It would serve him better to retire quietly now, rather than subject himself to further humiliation," he added in a statement yesterday.

He said Mahathir, who has been a vocal critic of BN under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's leadership, had so far remained silent since the ruling coalition

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scored a landslide victory in the recent by-elections in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar.

He said these victories clearly showed the people's rejection of Mahathir. They also indicated that Najib was more than capable of leading BN into the next general election.

Abdul Rahman, who is housing, local government and urban wellbeing minister, criticised Mahathir for betraying BN leaders who had once put their absolute loyalty and trust in him, through his anti-Najib campaign which had now "failed miserably".

He said Mahathir had been rejected not just by the people but now also by opposition supporters. "It is sad to see him destroy his own legacy," he added.

Meanwhile, Mahathir vowed not to stop his efforts to "cleanse" the government of corruption.



Mahathir

Rahman

"My stand will not change. It may be even stronger," he said in a blog post yesterday.

He claimed the BN victory was a result of monetary and material gifts given out to voters in both constituencies.

"Those who question my stand should ask themselves if they have lost their dignity to the extent that they are willing to take pride in a victory that is the result of lies, corruption and abuse of power," he said.