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Dr Salleh: Dr M now telling only half truths

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PETALING JAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin would be prime minister if Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia wins Putrajaya, to deflect talk that he wanted his son to take over the post.

Umno treasurer Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak, who said this, added that by naming Muhyiddin, Dr Mahathir was now suggesting that his son Datuk Seri Mukhriz would not be taking over.

“But that does not mean Mukhriz cannot be

appointed deputy prime minister while Muhyiddin becomes just a temporary PM,” he said in a blog post yesterday.

Dr Mahathir had said in a lecture in London last week that Muhyiddin, a former deputy prime minister, would be his choice prime minister if Parti Pribumi wins the next general election.

If Muhyiddin becomes prime minister, Dr Mahathir will continue to run Malaysia, said Dr Salleh.

“Dr Mahathir said that even though

Muhyiddin is going to be PM and the party’s president, Parti Pribumi also has a chairman.

“So the PM must consult the chairman, meaning Dr Mahathir, before making any decision. The PM must not make any decision by himself,” said Dr Salleh, also the Communications and Multimedia Minister.

He said this confirmed what he had pointed out in 2008 – that the new prime minister must be “guided” by a committee of elders and not be given a free hand or too much independence in running the country.