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'Dr M is at his ugly best'

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DESPERATE: Leaders criticise ex-PM's move to invite foreign interference

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DESPERATE to reach his goal to oust Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is willing to do anything, even if it is something he never tolerated when he was prime minister.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said he was surprised by Dr Mahathir's moves to ignore "his principles", which included disallowing foreign interference in the country's domestic affairs.

"Back when Dr Mahathir was the prime minister, if any foreign country or government were to say anything, he would tell them that they have no business interfering in Malaysia's affairs.

"During his time, if any local political activist were to work with a foreign government to criticise Malaysia, he or she would be detained on grounds of 'treason' and of working with foreign powers to bring down the democratically elected government.

"But he is now saying that the end justifies the means and that we must do anything possible so long as he meets his objectives of bringing down the prime minister, outside the constitutional process," Salleh said when commenting on an interview given by Dr Mahathir

to *The Weekend Australian Magazine*, in which he called for "foreign interference" to help oust Najib.

Salleh said no leader would be safe then as foreign powers could be invited to interfere in the country's domestic matters. He hoped Dr Mahathir was not trying to get himself arrested to gain public sympathy.

MCA religious harmony bureau chairman Datuk Seri Ti Lian Ker described Dr Mahathir as a paradox.

"Basically, Tun M is at his ugly best. He wants to dictate to the nation and, if possible, the whole world. He's a paradox. A Machiavellian. He changes the rules and arguments, and shifts the goal post at his whims and fancies," he said, adding that the country was not in a constitutional or institutional crisis, unlike during Dr Mahathir's rule, whereby the judiciary was tampered with and people were put behind bars through mass arrests and intimidation.

Ti said Dr Mahathir's move to invite foreign interference was an infringement of the nation's sovereignty.

"We know there are foreign parties who are interested to interfere and dictate to us. They have attempted to and will not hesitate to disrupt and weaken our political stability," he said.

Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi said Dr Mahathir's actions did not reflect his status as the former prime minister.

"My advice to Tun M is, please return to the right path. Don't be a traitor to the country. Repent because the people are not stupid and blind to follow your dictates."