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'Dr M going against own principle'

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ABOUT-TURN: Foreign interference frowned upon during his tenure, says DPM

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for foreign intervention to help topple Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak violates his own principles.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said when Dr Mahathir was in power, he had warned government officers and party leaders against cooperating with foreign powers to tarnish or damage the country's image.

"He used to tell us off if we cooperated with foreigners, while some of us have also even been accused of being a foreign agent.

"I had hoped he will not change his stance by asking others to go against what he used to stand for," said Zahid after closing the Kembara Kebajikan 1Malaysia programme here yesterday.

It was reported that Dr Mahathir

had recently said that foreign pressure was needed to force Najib to step down, saying the avenues for redress locally, had been completely closed.

Zahid also advised Dr Mahathir not to take any action that could make people lose respect for him as a former prime minister.

On the Public Accounts Committee's report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), Zahid said police would investigate the commercial crime aspect apart from checking whether it had breached the rules and regulations under the Companies Commission.

At another function later in Bagan Datoh, Zahid urged all parties to play their role in turning the sub-

district into an education hub.

The Bagan Datoh member of parliament said his rural constituency had already proven its ability in achieving academic excellence when it emerged as among the best in Perak.

"We should be grateful that the prime minister had also agreed that Bagan Datoh should be turned into an academic hub, he said when launching the Perak Academic Community Engagement project here.

Zahid said the government had agreed to add another RM500,000 to improve the academic performance of students here.

To help it become an education hub, he said the government would build a Maktab Rendah Sains Mara and polytechnic here.

"Our aim is not only to produce human capital with high academic qualifications, but also those who have positive characteristics."

I had hoped he will not change his stance by asking others to go against what he used to stand for.
Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi
Deputy prime minister