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Retire gracefully, Dr M urged

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should retire gracefully and allow his son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, to stand on his own feet politically, the prime minister's press secretary Datuk Seri Tengku Sariffuddin Tengku Ahmad said.

Tengku Sariffuddin, in a statement yesterday, said this was especially as Mukhriz claimed to have 80 per cent support in Umno.

"For years, Dr Mahathir has tried to push his son to the top of Umno, but he will never admit it.

"Firstly, he made his son stand for the Umno vice-presidency. But Mukhriz was defeated due to a lack of support, and Dr Mahathir blamed the prime minister.

"Then, Mukhriz stood as menteri besar of Kedah, which is Dr Mahathir's home state and power base. But he was removed due to a lack of support by party members, and again his father blamed the prime minister."

Tengku Sariffuddin said if Mukhriz had 80 per cent support in Umno as claimed, he would be the party's vice-president or menteri besar of Kedah.



Datuk Seri Tengku Sariffuddin Tengku Ahmad

He said the attempt to unseat a prime minister just to benefit Dr Mahathir's son was a step too far for Umno members.

"And damaging national interest just to benefit your son, such as Dr Mahathir's lie that RM42 billion was missing from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), is also a step too

far for Umno.

"The Public Accounts Committee's report proved that Dr Mahathir's attack on the prime minister using 1MDB is like thunder with no lightning."

Tengku Sariffuddin said these were the reasons why Dr Mahathir had lost the support of Umno and, in turn, why he had to leave Umno and solicit Chinese support from the opposition through DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang, a man he previously jailed.

He said Dr Mahathir needed to state his alternative candidates for the prime minister and deputy prime minister's posts.

"How can a man who wants to dictate and decide everything avoid answering this one critical question.

"Until he does, Dr Mahathir cannot blame the people for believing that his failed attempt to unseat the prime minister is all about paving the way for his son."

He said the prime minister would continue to focus on key issues that mattered to the country, especially combating the threat of terrorism and delivering on his economic plans for the people.