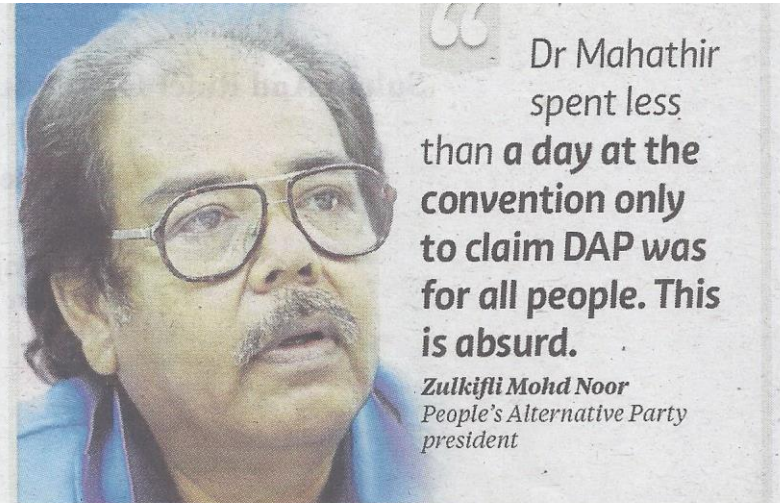


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Ex-PM's action draws flak

GEORGE TOWN: The People's Alternative Party (PAP) yesterday fired a broadside at former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for conspiring with DAP to topple the government.

Its president, Zulkifli Mohd Noor, lashed out at the Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman for recently showing up at the national convention of DAP, a party which he had labelled as dishonest in the past.

Zulkifli said all the hard work put in by Dr Mahathir for the country had been wiped out because the latter had reneged on his own word to work alongside DAP.

He said DAP was a party which could not work with others and had severed ties with Pas.

"Dr Mahathir spent less than a day at the convention only to claim DAP was for all people.

"This is absurd," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

He said it was Dr Mahathir who was behind the detention of senior DAP members under Op Lalang but he now opted to be seen in solidarity with them on the political stage.

To make matters worse, he said, DAP and PKR leaders had also accepted Dr Mahathir with open arms.

Zulkifli said Dr Mahathir's status as a statesman was no longer valid

after he also attended Parti Amanah Negara's inaugural national convention yesterday.

"Dr Mahathir does not have a good understanding about DAP unlike me, who was a member for 25 years," said the former DAP leader.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Johari Baharom described Dr Mahathir as a "vindictive" person.

Johari, who was Dr Mahathir's former political secretary, said the latter was now going against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak because of personal dissatisfaction.

"He was always against DAP. Knowing him, I can say that this is an act of vengeance," he said on Dr Mahathir's decision to befriend DAP.

"He was angry at me previously, too.

"He wanted to give a speech to criticise former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Kubang Pasu, but I told him it would be inappropriate," Johari said at the Warriors' Challenge at the National Defence University of Malaysia in Sungai Besi here yesterday.

Johari, who is also Kubang Pasu member of parliament, believed the reason why Dr Mahathir was dissatisfied with the current administration was due to his son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz's failure to secure the Umno vice-president's seat.