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'Dr M has no right to champion judiciary'

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BLOG POST: Ex-PM sacked late lord president and Federal Court judges in 1988, says Umno info chief

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad is in no position to "champion" the judiciary, as he had done the opposite through the removal of the late lord president Tun Salleh Abas and other Federal Court judges in 1988.

Commenting on Dr Mahathir's blog post titled "AG to AG" on Feb 3, Umno information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa said the former prime minister had described the change in the attorney-general's post as an "improper dismissal" of Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail.

"Besides, the claims about the improper dismissal of the previous A-G and the improper appointment of the current A-G are laughable at best, coming from someone who improperly sacked the then lord president, Tun Salleh Abas, and his fellow Federal Court judges, Tan Sri Wan Suleiman Pawanteh and Datuk George Seah, from their posts in 1988 to save his (Dr Mahathir's) post.

"Dr Mahathir has no moral standing to preach or complain about the Malaysian judicial and legal system, as he is to blame if there is any fault with the current system.

"And, unlike the dismissal of the top judges during Dr Mahathir's time, which was challenged by those involved and resulted in the new chief justice not being recognised by the Bar Council, the previous A-G (Abdul Gani) never challenged his dismissal and the Bar Council fully recognised the new A-G," Annuar wrote on his Facebook page yesterday.

Annuar said Dr Mahathir could be investigated for sedition for claiming that Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali's appointment was done "through false representation made to the king".

Annuar said action could be taken against Dr Mahathir under Section 3 (1)(a) of the Sedition Act 1948, under which it is an offence "to bring into

hatred or contempt or to excite disaffection against any ruler or against any government".

"This claim is an insult to the king, making it appear as if the king is a foolhardy (man) who can be easily deceived by the people. Having known him (Dr Mahathir) for quite a long time, I don't know what his real intention was in writing such a post.

"It could be that he, being the shrewd political strategist that he is, was merely trying to garner sympathy from the public and to mobilise support for his cause to get the prime minister removed by inciting the authorities to act against him."

On a separate issue, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said Dr Mahathir, in his latest blog post, appeared to be shifting the blame for a supposed failure of Malaysia's transformation towards Vision 2020.

Dr Mahathir had written: "There was a time not so very long ago when Malaysia was admired for successfully raising itself from an impoverished Third World country into a stable, newly industrialised country. No one doubted that its announced intention to become a developed country by 2020 would be achieved."

Salleh said Dr Mahathir needed to face reality and the consequences of the policies he had rolled out during his tenure as prime minister.

"His statement is merely an attempt to avoid taking responsibility for its failure and to shift the blame on someone else.

"I think Dr Mahathir needs to get real. During the period he is talking about, Dr Mahathir quarrelled with then British prime minister Margaret Thatcher and launched his 'Buy British Last' campaign. He also quarrelled with then United States president Bill Clinton, resulting in Australian prime minister Paul Keating calling Dr Mahathir recalcitrant. Most Malaysians were embarrassed by those events."



Tan Sri Annuar Musa