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Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	10 JUNE 2016

'Dr M wants to save nation from the mess he created'

NST- 10/6/2016

KUALA LUMPUR: Blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had launched the Anti-Najib Campaign (ANC) and taken over as the de facto opposition leader to save Malaysia from the mess he created.

"Dr Mahathir wants to save Malaysia from the mess it is in. But what many Malaysians, especially the younger generation, do not know is that the mess that Malaysia is in is all Dr Mahathir's doing.

"He left so much s***, and now he is offering to help clean that s***," he wrote in his latest posting titled "Mahathir wants to save Malaysia from the mess he created".

The London-based blogger wrote that Dr Mahathir did not like sharing power, so he removed the powers of the rulers and from then on "he ruled Malaysia as a dictator".

He said even parliamentarians from Barisan Nasional who opposed bills that Dr Mahathir had wanted to pass were suspended from Parliament.

"And now, Dr Mahathir is grumbling about it, and angry that the BN MPs will not pass a vote of no confidence against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak."

He said in 1993, in what is now known as "The Constitutional Crisis" between Dr Mahathir and the rulers, Parliament had approved amendments to the Constitution, in spite of the rulers' objections, which allowed laws to be passed without the need to obtain royal assent.

"As what Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said at that time, this allowed Dr Mahathir to rule without having to share power with the rulers, and all the checks and balances that the British had installed in Malaysia's system of government were removed by Dr Mahathir to allow him absolute power.

Raja Petra said the other issue that had torn Malaysia apart and divided Malaysians into two groups was the issue of Islam and the Syariah courts. He said everything that was triggered by this problem, including the Allah word, Bahasa Malaysia Bibles, conversions, apostasy, child custody when couples divorce and when one ex-spouse leaves Islam, and so on.

He said these came about no thanks to the 1988 amendment to the Constitution, which Dr Mahathir had pushed through.

"That is why the country is in a mess. And now, Dr Mahathir is offering himself as that person who is going to save Malaysia. But most of the problems we need saving from were Dr Mahathir's doing.

"We actually need to save Malaysia from Dr Mahathir rather than ask Dr Mahathir to save Malaysia. He left such a mess that it is tearing the country apart," he said.