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'Don't insult Umno chiefs'

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KUALA KANGSAR: By insulting Umno leaders and members, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad clearly forgot that they made sacrifices to defend him when he was party president, Umno information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa said.

Annuar said Dr Mahathir had taught party members to be loyal to the party president when he was the party chief.

But, now, he said, Dr Mahathir called those who did not back his bid to oust Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak as *dedak* (bran) eaters, which referred to someone who took bribes.

"Don't insult the 191 Umno division heads by calling them bran eaters.

"The divisions can decide who becomes the national leader," he said at a breaking of fast event in Kampung Lempur here yesterday.

Annuar was commenting on a statement by Dr Mahathir alleging that Najib's supporters were bran eaters during a speech to express his support for Parti Amanah Negara (PAN) candidate for the Sungai Besar by-election, Azhar Abdul Shukur.

"He said he wants to save Umno, but he cooperates with DAP and Pas. Dr Mahathir places Umno and Pas

lower than DAP and PAN," he said.

He said Najib succeeded in developing Malaysia, which was much more than what Dr Mahathir had achieved as prime minister.

"The World Bank has placed Malaysia in 18th spot in terms of facilities to begin a business.

"Najib has succeeded in improving the economy and politics better than during the era of Dr Mahathir."

Annuar said Malaysians enjoyed more freedom and transparency under Najib compared with the time Dr Mahathir, who often used the Internal Security Act, was in office.

Bernama