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Govt to stop funding Perdana foundation

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DR M-LED: It is being used as platform to topple govt unconstitutionally, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR

THE government will stop funding the Perdana Leadership Foundation, which is led by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this was because the foundation was used as a platform to topple the government unconstitutionally.

Najib, who is also Umno president, said the Umno Supreme Council yesterday asked the government to stop funding the foundation, following the Youth wing's suggestion on the matter.

"(This is) because the foundation has been used as a platform to topple the government unconstitutionally.

"The government was chosen democratically and in accordance with the law," Najib said after chairing the Supreme Council meeting yesterday.

He said there was no reason for the government to continue providing contributions to the foundation.

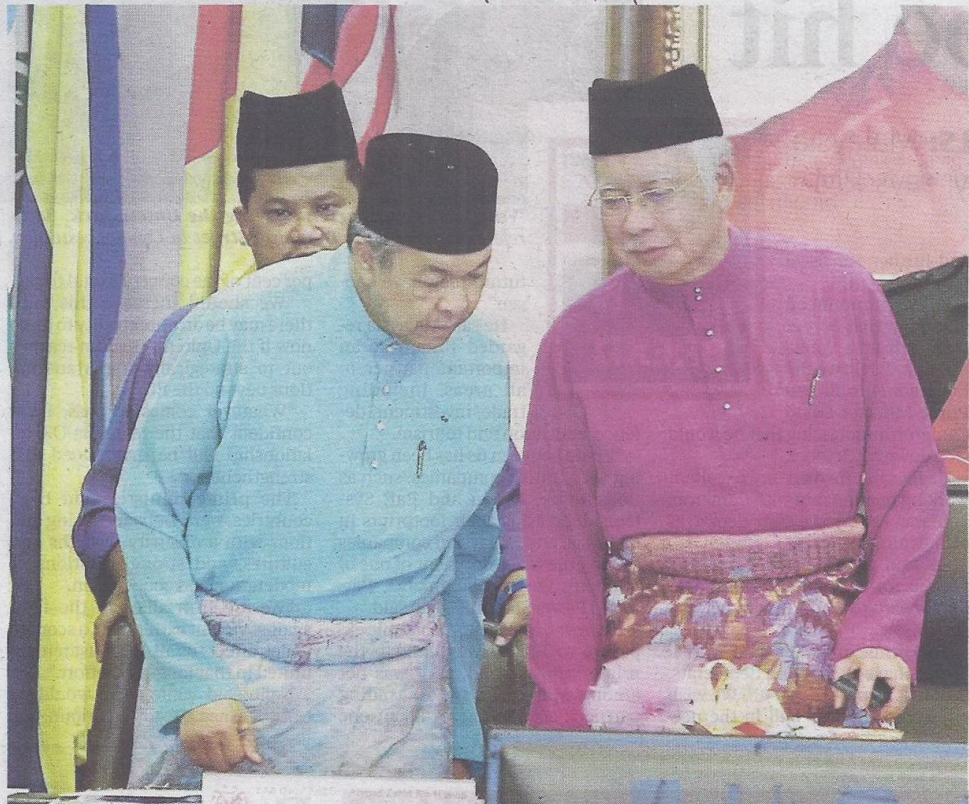
"Employees of the foundation will be given termination notices accordingly."

On Thursday, Umno Youth deputy chief Khairul Azwan Harun had urged the government to stop funding the foundation.

"Umno Youth condemns Dr Mahathir for smearing the Malaysian government and Najib, as it is against the Constitution and democratic practices," he was quoted as saying.

Earlier yesterday, Khairul Azwan repeated the call, saying the wing viewed recent actions by Dr Mahathir seriously.

"He has been using the foundation's resources for events to campaign against the prime minister's



Umno president **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** in a discussion with vice-president **Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi** before chairing the Supreme Council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

leadership."

He said the foundation had 22 staff on the government's payroll, adding that Umno Youth would, however, leave it to the government to decide on Dr Mahathir's position in the foundation.

Umno Youth executive committee member Tengku Zuhri Aziz, in a statement, said Dr Mahathir should also relinquish his post in the foundation.

Perlis Umno Youth chief Syed Atif Syed Abu Bakar described the government's decision to stop channelling aid to the foundation as timely.

He said the foundation had turned from a set-up to pursue honourable

causes to a movement to topple the country's leadership.

The foundation, he said, had failed to honour the four pillars of its establishment, which were to project the contributions of past prime ministers from the social, economic and political aspects; create awareness of the country's history and development processes; become a resource centre in the understanding of policies, strategies and initiatives of past leaders; and, encourage discourse among academicians and thinkers on the global front to promote lasting peaceful resolutions.

"The foundation's leadership should know this, and they should

have reminded Dr Mahathir, who might have forgotten all that and, instead, used the foundation to slam and slag off the government."

In **George Town**, Penang Umno Youth chief Rafizal Abd Rahim said it was only fair to stop providing any form of assistance to the foundation as Dr Mahathir was using it to topple Najib.

"We see that the foundation has strayed from its original objective.

"In fact, Dr Mahathir's actions clearly against the Federal Government," he said, adding that Dr Mahathir should step down as the foundation's honorary chairman.



Khairul Azwan Harun



Syed Atif Syed Abu Bakar