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# Umno leaders condemn Dr M-Kit Siang alliance

## 'THANK YOU':

Dr M's actions have strengthened PM's position, say Umno leaders

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THE joining of hands between long-time political arch enemies Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and DAP kingpin Lim Kit Siang has drawn all-round flak from Umno leaders.

Barisan Nasional strategic communications director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said Dr Mahathir's action had only strengthened Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's position in Umno.

"Collaborating with sworn enemies of Umno will only strengthen the prime minister's position in Umno. I thank you Tun (Dr Mahathir)," he said on Twitter.

Rahman said feedback from Umno grassroots leaders indicated that

members were rallying behind Najib. He said Dr Mahathir's fight was no longer just with Najib, but with the whole of Umno.

"By collaborating with the opposition, whose agenda is to destroy Umno, this fight is no longer between Tun (Dr Mahathir) and the prime minister.

"Now, it's between Tun (Dr Mahathir) and Umno."

Umno information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa "congratulated" the opposition for finally accepting Dr Mahathir, a former Umno president.

"This is fate and, for some, it is karma. Pakatan Harapan should collaborate with Dr Mahathir to free Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was sacked and charged in court under his (Dr Mahathir's) government."

Annuar said Umno could not afford to be involved in "drama" as the party had been mandated to safeguard the welfare of Malaysians and manage the country.

"We have the responsibility to improve the economy, foster unity, ensure peace and justice, defend the rule of law and ensure the dignity of the Constitution," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the party would uphold the legacy, policies, rules and conventions left by Dr Mahathir in administering the party and the country.

Annuar called on Umno members to close ranks and be consistent with the belief that leaders come and go, but the party's struggles remained strong.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said, at a time when the party leadership was going all out to ensure economic

stability and security, Dr Mahathir and the opposition were only focused on unseating the prime minister.

"Many were shocked by his (Dr Mahathir's) move, along with a few other Umno leaders to cooperate

and sit at one table with the opposition, just to bring the prime minister down. Have they forgotten that even the NGOs they sat down with, used to call Tun Mahathir "Firaun"?"

"Tun Mahathir today is no longer a statesman who has respect for the democratic system, no love for unity and not a care in the world for the wellbeing of the people," Hishammuddin said.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said the alliance was bound to be doomed from the start.

"They are not united on the details. Dr Mahathir talked about removing Najib and then pushing for reforms, but he was very careful about not going into details regarding what reforms he was talking

about. He left it vague," he said in a blog posting.

Salleh said the Anti-Najib campaigners' sole agenda was to oust Najib, but did not focus on reforms.

"Let us first hear what their full agenda of reforms is before asking the rakyat for their support. As it stands now, their one and only agenda is to oust Najib. After that what?"

Salleh said Dr Mahathir claimed that he wanted to save the country when, in fact, he had been using the IMDB issue as ammunition to take down Najib.

"Dr Mahathir said the alliance is merely to oust Najib so that Malaysia can be saved. Saved from what?"

"What he means is the IMDB issue but he does not want to mention that the matter has already been resolved and is no longer an issue. Even the RM2.6 billion matter has been resolved," he said.

The anti-Najib campaigners,

Salleh said, must be truthful and not fool the people with their gimmicks.

"They need to be honest and not take the rakyat for a ride. They realise that their move to oust Najib has failed and this is just a

face-saving exercise.

"It is a side-show to give the impression that the effort has not ended when, in fact it, ended months ago."

In **George Town**, Penang Umno said it was disappointed with Dr Mahathir for aligning himself with the opposition and anti-government non-governmental organisations in a bid to oust Najib as the prime minister.

It also condemned sacked deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and former Kedah menteri besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir for their presence during the signing of the Citizens' Declaration yesterday, a move seen as challenging the party's leadership to initiate disciplinary actions against them.

Expressing support for Najib, state

Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Zainal Abidin Osman said Penang Umno would continue to rally behind Najib to serve in his role as the prime minister and Umno president.

"We will remain loyal to our prime minister and party president, and work together to fight our enemies, especially DAP and its allies.

"With our prime minister and party president facing attacks from outside and inside the country, it is our responsibility as Umno members to defend him at all cost.

"Throughout Dr Mahathir's tenure as the prime minister and party president, party members also defended the Institution of the party president and prime minister from any form of attack, whether from outside or inside the country."

Zainal said any attempt to oust the government and prime minister, elected by the people through the democratic process, was uncalled for and should be opposed by Umno and BN.

"The government is elected every five years through democratic and free elections, while the prime minister is picked from the winning party which obtains the majority support in Parliament.

"This democratic practice should be respected by all," he added.

Umno Youth deputy chief Khairul Azwan Harun said Dr Mahathir joining Lim to oust Najib was nothing short of political hypocrisy.

"It is an awkward pairing. They are not fit to be calling for the prime minister (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) to step down... If anything, they are the ones who have refused to retire.

"Lim is a leader who has overstayed," he said, adding that Dr Mahathir should realise Umno had stood by him through many episodes and political crises when the latter was prime minister.

Khairul said, while the wing accepted Dr Mahathir's stand with an open heart, Umno Youth would continue to maintain discipline and loyalty to the party leadership. **Additional reporting by Audrey Dermawan**

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**Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan**



**Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein**



**Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak**