

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	6 March 2016

## 'Ex-PM not practising democracy'

NOT- 6/3/2016

**KUALA LUMPUR:** It is "bizarre" for statesman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his "henchmen" to shout "democracy" when they do not use proper channels to voice their dissatisfaction, said Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman.

Instead of using democratic means, Anifah said, Dr Mahathir used a "shortcut" by being in cahoots with the opposition, who had tried to topple the government, thus tarnishing the country's image to the world.

"Their actions are against the basic principles of democracy, to bring down Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who was elected by the people and the Umno leadership — a principle that Dr Mahathir himself had once fought for.

"If this happens, it would be the

dirtiest political plot, even more so when Dr Mahathir sits at the same table with the opposition, who do nothing better than bring endless turmoil," he said yesterday.

He said the group's "Save Malaysia" slogan was not in line with their actions and questioned their true intentions.

Dr Mahathir, as the former prime minister, should have a better understanding of the meaning of democracy, said Anifah.

"Dr Mahathir is a renowned statesman and an international icon and it worries me that his actions could cause instability to the country and cause foreign investors to stay away.

"Foreign investment is one of the main sources of the country's development. The entry of foreign investors can increase national in-

come, create jobs and boost economic progress.

"Is this their hidden political agenda to sabotage this and would this 'save Malaysia'?"

Describing Dr Mahathir's move as "shocking", Anifah said the former had said a change in government would not be best for the country as it would only slow down the economic progress that was brought by the government.

He said Dr Mahathir had said a change in government could have a negative impact on the economy.

"But now, he has made a U-turn, and is bringing with him a big threat that could bring about chaos.

"We must not forget that the international community has its eyes on us.

"This instability could lead to adverse implications.