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# Dr M's move 'unbecoming'

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## DECLARATION:

Former PM working with opposition harms Umno, say BN leaders

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**M**ORE Barisan Nasional leaders are coming out in droves to support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's leadership, describing his predecessor's act of joining hands with opposition parties as "unbecoming" and "detrimental to Umno".

Johor BN chief Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's move to initiate the Citizens' Declaration on Friday would be detrimental to Umno and could affect the party's performance in the 2018 General Election.

Khaled, who is also menteri besar, said the state BN had pledged its full support to Najib, who would be on a working visit here today to inspect developments.

"The prime minister was elected under the provisions of the constitution and this was not the right way to remove an elected leader," Khaled said after attending a Chinese New Year celebration organised by the state Gerakan here yesterday.

A 37-point Citizens' Declaration with four key demands was signed on Friday by more than 50 high-profile politicians, mostly from the opposition, and anti-government activists.

The group was led by Dr Mahathir and the event was attended by several leaders, namely former deputy



Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin



Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong



Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum



Tan Sri James Jemut Masing



Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob

prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, former Kedah menteri besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang, PKR deputy president Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said the reformation of Umno would not be affected despite the involvement of former senior BN leaders.

He said the Citizens' Declaration was a challenge that needed to be experienced by every party, and party leaders' abilities to overcome obstacles would make the party stronger.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong yesterday said: "They should show respect to the democratically-elected government. This group, comprising seasoned politicians and activists, should demonstrate a good example to the public by adhering to existing mechanisms to change the government and its leadership.

"It should be done via a lawful and democratic process, (which is) through the general election and Parliament."

In **Alor Star**, Kubang Pasu Umno chief Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum said it was unfortunate that Dr Mahathir chose to "crush Umno" by working with his enemies simply because he was upset with Najib.

"Umno members, including those from Kubang Pasu division, gave their undivided support and pledged loyalty to him when he was party president, regardless of the crises during that time.

"Without strong support from Umno members, he would not have been prime minister for 22 years."

In **Kuching**, state Land Development Minister Tan Sri James Jemut Masing said Dr Mahathir could have waited until Umno convened its general assembly and allowed delegates to decide on Najib's fate.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Youth chief Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof expressed disgust to see PKR and

DAP lose any remaining shred of political integrity they had by joining forces with a man whom both parties had condemned.

In **Ipoh**, state Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said state Umno members should not lose sight of the opposition's strategies.

"They will use whatever means, including befriending Dr Mahathir, who was previously their public enemy No. 1, to threaten Umno and BN's strength."

In **Kuala Terengganu**, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said the Citizens' Declaration was against parliamentary democracy practised in the country.

"The move by Dr Mahathir was outside the normal practice and the constitution. It shows disrespect and disloyalty to an elected leader.

"Umno members who were present to support the declaration have exposed themselves to disciplinary action. They are now with the op-

position challenging BN," he said after presenting school aid at SMK Tengku Bariah here yesterday.

In **Kuantan**, the state Umno liaison committee expressed disappointment with Dr Mahathir for teaming up with the opposition to oust the Umno president.

State Umno chairman Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is also menteri besar, described Dr Mahathir's action as inappropriate, saying that it was a well-planned move that should have never happened.

"We are saddened and strongly condemn Tun's (Dr Mahathir's) actions, along with Umno leaders who are in cahoots with the opposition to unseat Najib."

Adnan said Dr Mahathir, Muhyiddin, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and Mukhriz's decision to cooperate with the opposition was to "sabotage Umno, the government and the country". Additional reporting by Sylvia Looi, T. N. Alagesh, Adib Povera and Hana Naz Harun