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Kit Siang: I never hated Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR: Despite being held under the Internal Security Act (ISA) during the tenure of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as prime minister, veteran DAP politician Lim Kit Siang says he has no hatred for the former.

"I never hated Mahathir, I never hated anybody; in politics it cannot be personal.

"Whatever I have said about Mahathir is public record but the fact is he has come together to work (with us) to save the nation, that is the most important thing," Lim said in his speech at a "coffee shop" forum with the public in Taman Bukit Segar, Cheras yesterday.

Kit Siang and his son, Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, were held under the ISA during "Operasi Lalang", a massive crackdown in 1987.

"We agreed that for the interest of the nation and its future, we should put aside our personal feelings and differences," he added.

Kit Siang, who is Gelang Patah MP, said the Citizens Declaration signed on Friday is focused on saving the country from becoming a failed state.

He added that jailed Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should also be released so that he can take part in national consultations on various issues facing the nation. - by **Karen Arukesamy**