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Dr M rapped over remarks

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Barisan politicians unhappy former PM believes that coalition will lose by-elections

KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional politicians have criticised Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for predicting that the coalition will lose in the two coming by-elections.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said Dr Mahathir's statement showed his insincerity.

"We used to respect him as the leader of the coalition – for his 22 years as prime minister and as an Umno leader.

"Now, he is saying that he wants Barisan to lose in the by-elections and he has shown his insincerity,"

he told reporters at Parliament lobby here yesterday.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir had called for combined efforts to defeat Barisan at the two by-elections in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar next month.

He also warned opposition parties against splitting the anti-Barisan vote, citing the recent elections in Sarawak where DAP, PKR, PAS and Amanah were engaged in several multi-cornered contests.

Kuala Selangor MP Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim said the party would continue to work towards winning

people's support under the current leadership.

"We take his words as a challenge to prove that what he said is wrong. We cannot lose focus at this stage," he said.

MIC Youth chief C. Sivarraajh said a true Barisan man would never utter such words against the coalition.

"I think people realise his true intention and his personal agenda.

"His statement will not affect the results because the previous Barisan lawmakers in both constituencies had served the people well.

"The people will choose the Barisan candidate because we have brought development and changes," he said.

MCA Youth chief Chong Sin Woon said Dr Mahathir had gone too far with his attack against the Prime Minister and for wanting to see Barisan lose.

"He must have forgotten that he was Malaysia's prime minister for 22 years due to the support of Barisan.

"The best he can do for this country – like many other world leaders – is to let his successor run the coun-

try according to current challenges," he said.

Dr Mahathir, said Chong, could not be absolutely right all the time and should not expect others to follow his way.

"He is still well respected and should contribute in other ways and not be directly involved in politics anymore," he said.

MCA deputy secretary-general Datuk Wee Jeck Seng said Dr Mahathir was entitled to his opinion and to express his views.

"I don't think people will listen," said the Tanjung Piai MP.

