

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	16 NOVEMBER 2016

Dr M not a leader to be trusted, say Umno leaders

NST- 16/11/2016

'A HYPOCRITE':

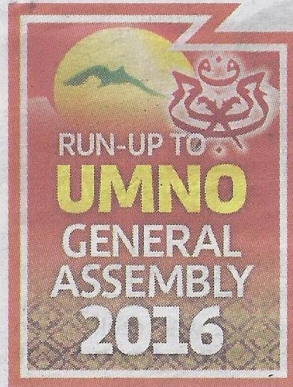
Grassroots leaders not shocked to see him wearing 'Free Anwar' badge

SYED UMAR ARIFF

KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's latest support for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim does not come as a surprise for many Umno members.

While certain quarters were aghast by the former prime minister's participation in a campaign to free the person who was jailed under his administration, senior grassroots said it was typical for him to justify the means necessary to achieve his political objective.



"It is not a question of whether he has backtracked on what he did against Anwar. We are talking about Dr Mahathir here. We know who and what he is capable of doing. After all, we served under his leadership back then.

"When we first saw the picture of him wearing the 'Free Anwar' badge during the Pakatan Harapan convention (on Saturday), the common response among us (veterans) was — 'well, that's Dr Mahathir'. We are not surprised to see him

embracing the man he had once hated," said former Labis Umno leader Hashim Daud.

Hashim said Dr Mahathir was not a leader who could be trusted, although his charges had pledged their utmost loyalty to him in order to maintain unity in Umno.

"We know what he did to (former deputy prime minister) Tun Musa Hitam. We know how he treated (now Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia pro tem president) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin when he was appointed to the cabinet after serving as Johor menteri besar."

Dr Mahathir removed Anwar from the cabinet as deputy prime minister in 1998, and was subsequently jailed after he was charged with corruption for allegedly interfering with police investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct made against him, and for committing sodomy.

The two later became arch-nemeses with Dr Mahathir continuously berating Anwar over his al-

leged sexual preferences, and the latter labelling the former as a dictator.

Last Saturday, Dr Mahathir was criticised by observers and the public for wearing the "Free Anwar" badge, with many accusing him of being a hypocrite.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Umno Youth secretary Zaidan Rahim believed that politically, Dr Mahathir would have no qualms to do anything he considered necessary to meet his goals.

He said Dr Mahathir's Machiavellian approach did not strike as out of tune since most politicians were aware of his approach.

"He is justifying the means to an end.

"The story of Anwar when he was first put behind bars (during Dr Mahathir's reign as prime minister) is now (part of) history.

"But Dr Mahathir is a politician and with that being said, you cannot assume that things or a situation will remain the same."