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## Salleh: Dr M's involvement kept people away

NST- 20/11/2016

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The involvement of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his cronies in the Bersih 5 rally has resulted in the decreased turnout by nearly 97 per cent, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak.

He attributed this to the Malays seeing through Dr Mahathir's selfish agenda and therefore, refusing to attend the gathering.

At the same time, he said, thousands of Chinese who attended the Bersih rally last year had stayed home as they were disgusted that Dr Mahathir was involved.

"Thankfully, democracy is firmly entrenched in Malaysia. It cannot be overrun on the whims of one old man who has admitted to being a dictator when in power," Salleh said in a statement yesterday.

He said the poor turnout at yesterday's rally showed that the majority of Malaysians rejected the hypocrisy of Bersih and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM).

He said it was a setback to Dr Mahathir and PPBM, of which the latter is the pro-tem chairman.

Salleh said the creation of PPBM was supposed to bring in masses of new Malay supporters to Pakatan Harapan and the rally.

"Instead, only about three per cent of last year's Bersih rally marched this year. There were about 15,500 today (yesterday) compared with 500,000 Bersih claimed last year. Even if you take (news portal) Malaysiakini's figures, it was no more than 41,000. Less than 10 per cent of the figure Bersih claimed last year."