

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	21 NOVEMBER 2016

BN leaders criticise Dr M's involvement in protest

NST - 21/11/2016

KUALA LUMPUR: Barisan Nasional Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin "congratulated" former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his success in hijacking the Bersih 5 rally and making it a platform to promote his new party.

He said rally participants, including opposition and Bersih leaders, had played into the hands of Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman, without realising it.

"Nobody spoke about (Datuk Seri) Anwar (Ibrahim). Everything was about Tun M. So, well done," said Khairy, who is also youth and sports minister, at the BN Wilayah Persekutuan Youth Convention here yesterday.

He said the rally, where Dr Mahathir was joined by PPBM president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and his son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, was filled with hate towards

the BN coalition.

In **Maran**, Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the people should ignore calls by Bersih to change the government.

To do so, it should come from the people's votes in elections, he said, adding that the opposition had joined the rally because they feared the support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in rural areas.

In **Shah Alam**, Selangor Umno liaison committee chief Tan Sri Noh Omar said Dr Mahathir had sacrificed his dignity for personal interests.

"He was the one who had gone to the extreme to stop demonstrations during his tenure. It is sad and embarrassing for him to stoop so low by attending the Bersih 5 rally."

In **Sungai Petani**, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said he was concerned that the rally, which

received foreign funding, would bring negative implications.

"I am concerned that they might have fallen into a political trap of outsiders called the 'Global Elite', which is linked to George Soros."

In **Rantau Panjang**, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said the smaller number of participants showed that people had rejected Dr Mahathir and Muhyiddin.

He said the rally also failed to achieve its expectation of getting 200,000 to 300,000 people as the number of participants recorded was around 15,000.

In **Kuala Terengganu**, Menteri Besar Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman said it was ironic for Dr Mahathir to oppose the current leadership.

"When he was the prime minister, he did not like to be criticised. This is not good for the country as it affects the economy and wellbeing of all."