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## DAP'S NEW RECRUIT

# Dr M slams 'frog-like' politicians as Zaid joins DAP

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(Front row, from left) Former Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former minister Datuk Zaid Ibrahim and DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang at a press conference in Petaling Jaya yesterday. PIC BY SAIRIEN NAFIS

**PETALING JAYA:** Former Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told politicians to “stop acting like frogs and end the habit of jumping parties”.

Dr Mahathir, who is now Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman, said the country had a lot of frog-like politicians who jump from one ship to another.

“In our country, there are many ‘descendants’ of frogs, jumping here and there.

“We should put away this frog-like habit of jumping (parties) among opposition politicians,” he said at a press conference to announce former minister Datuk Zaid Ibrahim’s entry into DAP here yesterday.

Zaid was an Umno leader from 2000 to 2008. He was sacked from Umno and joined PKR in 2009.

He then left PKR and revived Parti Kesejahteraan Insan Tanah Air (Parti Kita) in 2010, before announcing in 2013 that he would quit politics.

Dr Mahathir admitted that he, too, had jumped parties from Umno to PPBM, but said it was important that a political leader leave a party if it was no longer in line with his principles.

“In politics, you should fight for principles and objectives that you have set for yourself and the party. I left Umno because the Umno now is not the same one that fought for independence and built this country.

“I want to work with the opposition in a pact to get rid of a kleptocrat.”

He expressed hope that PPBM would join a new coalition under a new banner with Pakatan Harapan parties and work together as one unit against Barisan Nasional.

He said a united opposition was important to fight BN in the next general election.

In his speech at the announcement, which was held at Zaid’s residence at the Tropicana Golf & Country Resort here, Dr Mahathir said it was strange to see a former Umno leader jump ship to DAP, but added that “there were stranger things happening in the country”.

“I hope Zaid will stay in DAP for a while. I hope he can contribute (to DAP) through his experience and knowledge to ensure that DAP will not forever be the opposition, but be a part of the ruling government.”

Present were DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, former minister Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and Parti Amanah Negara communications director Khalid Samad. No PKR leaders were present.

Lim said Zaid would be an asset to DAP’s struggles.

“People ask me if Zaid will stay this time, and how long he will remain in DAP. I am sure he will be a team player and not be a prima donna.”

Zaid expressed hope that he would stay in DAP for longer than his previous stints in three parties.

“One of the reasons I chose this party is because I hope more Malays would join DAP. I believe DAP will help save the country and help all of us achieve our aim of saving Malaysia.”

Asked whether he would be contesting in the 14th General Election, Zaid said the matter had not been discussed yet.