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RESIGNATIONS

# 'DR MAHATHIR IS WHY DAP MEMBERS QUIT'

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Party's ties with Dr M a departure from principles, says former vice-chairman

KUALA LUMPUR

**F**ORMER DAP members have pointed to the involvement of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the opposition as one of the chief reasons many are quitting the party.

Commenting on the four representatives in Malacca who resigned from DAP yesterday, former party vice-chairman Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim said it could be observed that members were disenchanted with the top leadership's closeness with Dr Mahathir.

"The party used to consider Dr Mahathir an enemy. What they see now is a total and complete departure from DAP's principles, where the party is now plunging head first into murky waters.

"Dr Mahathir is one of the chief reasons why people are leaving DAP.

"He was the perpetrator of many things that are plaguing the country," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Tunku Aziz joined DAP in 2008. However, in 2012, he opposed the Bersih 3.0 rally, saying the event had encouraged Malaysians to break the law.

He then left DAP, citing irreconcilable differences as he was opposed to the rally, which DAP supported.

"These former members (the elected representatives in Malacca) have seen DAP's true nature.

"It is a party of convenience. I can see that more will leave the party in the future," said Tunku Aziz.

His views were echoed by former DAP Sungai Pelek parliamentary liaison committee member Tan Tuan Tat, who believed that other DAP leaders from other states would leave the party.

Tan said two of those who quit yesterday, Sim Tong Him and Goh

Leong San, were "very good leaders", and pioneers for DAP in Malacca.

He said they had worked diligently for the party and state, but had been undermined and belittled.

"The duo have daringly come out and resigned.

"This is a major loss to the party. They are good people," he told the NST.

Tan claimed that DAP members had told him that party supremo Lim Kit Siang was no longer the "thunderous lightning and storm" he used to be, and had instead become a loose cannon.

"DAP leaders have become arrogant. They have deviated from the party's original struggle.

"They (the four and some other members) are wondering how can the party suddenly 'sleep' with Tun M (Dr Mahathir) in the same bed," he said.

Former DAP vice-chairman Zulkifli Mohd Noor, said "something was off" in the party if a senior leader like Sim quit.

He added that Sim had done a lot for Malacca

Zulkifli, who was with the party for 26 years, quit the party after an alleged fiasco during the party central executive committee elections in

2013.

"I am not shocked when a good, intelligent and reputable leader like Sim left the party.

"It goes to show that the party does not accept people like him.

"I have known Sim for some time. He is an anchorman in Malacca. He is reputable.

"If he can decide to leave, something is really off in Malacca," he told the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

Zulkifli said DAP had become a party for people "hungry for status". He said followers of the four leaders who quit would likely follow in their footsteps.

"This party has become a two-person party... the Lim dynasty," he said in reference to DAP secretary general Lim Guan Eng and his father, Lim Kit Siang.

Former Penang DAP life member Shamsheer Singh Thind said Kit

## FORMER DAP LEADERS WHO RESIGNED IN THE PAST

DEC 4, 2016

Penang DAP life member Shamsheer Singh Thind gave up his life membership over his party's alliance with former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

2013

DAP vice-chairman Zulkifli Mohd Noor, a party member for 26 years, quit the party after the alleged fiasco during the party central executive committee elections that year.

MAY 25, 2012

DAP national vice-chairman Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim resigned from the party, citing irreconcilable differences with the party leadership. His resignation came on the back of criticisms of the Bersih 3.0 rally and the announcement that his senatorship, which ended on May 31, would not be renewed.

AUG 16, 2012

DAP Sungai Pelek parliamentary liaison committee member Tan Tuan Tat quit the party, saying it had deviated from its original spirit and essence. He claimed then that DAP was led by arrogant, incompetent and unprofessional leaders.

JUNE 15, 2010

Malim Nawar assemblyman Keshvinder Singh quit DAP to become an independent assemblyman. He quit because there was too much politicking in Pakatan Rakyat, and believed only BN could help his rural constituency.

FEB 4, 2009

Jelapang assemblyman Datuk Hee Yit Foong resigned from DAP, plunging the then Pakatan Rakyat government in Perak deeper into crisis, in the 2009 Perak constitutional crisis. She later said she quit the party not to take revenge, but because the party didn't want her.

INFOGRAPHIC NST

Siang made the situation in DAP worse by "ignoring" the revelation by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) about Dr Mahathir's possible involvement in the Bumiputera Malaysia Finance scandal.

Shamsheer also suggested another reason that could have led to the resignations: former minister Datuk Zaid Ibrahim's instant membership in DAP.

He said upon becoming a member, Zaid had immediately declared Dr Mahathir as the de facto leader of Pakatan Harapan.

"Probably the four elected representatives resigned for these reasons as well.

"If I had not resigned earlier, I would have surely resigned by now," Shamsheer said.