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# NAJIB: DR M CHAMPION OF U-TURNS

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Ex-PM now says BR1M will be given out if PPBM wins 14th General Election

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a "champion of U-turns", said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak following the former's act of backpedalling on his stance against the Malaysia People's Aid (BRIM).

During a press conference here yesterday, Najib said Dr Mahathir's most recent statement on BRIM showed that the former premier had made a major about-turn on the issue.

"He is the *jaguh U-turn* (U-turn champion) as he had issued a statement that contradicted his stance (against BRIM) all this while.

"The government had never considered BRIM as corruption as it was not that much different from the (aid given out) in Selangor and Penang.

"Even when he (Dr Mahathir) was prime minister, he had given out (financial) aid to the people," said Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament.

He added that even the party's president, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, had defended BRIM by calling it a government policy.

Najib said BRIM should not have been politicised as it was a form of financial support given to the underprivileged and poor.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

On Saturday, during the official launch of PPBM in Selangor, Dr Mahathir said BRIM might continue to be given out by the opposition in the event they won the 14th General Election (GE14).

Dr Mahathir had also said BRIM would be placed solely under the Federal Government's purview and not under any political party's political manifesto.

Last month, however, Dr Mahathir, who is also PPBM chairman, dismissed BRIM as a form of corruption and was, therefore, illegal.

On Dr Mahathir's recent statement that the opposition would seek to abolish the Goods and Services Tax (GST) if it won GE14, Najib said the federal government would lose RM40 billion in annual revenue if the tax system

was scrapped.

"What is the replacement for GST?"

"He (Dr Mahathir) did not say anything (about an alternative)," said Najib, adding that Dr Mahathir's anti-GST statement was meant to confuse the people.

He reiterated that out of the 120 countries implementing GST worldwide, Malaysia had the lowest tax rate.

On the impending by-election in Tanjung Datu seat, which fell vacant after the death of its incumbent and former Sarawak chief minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem, Najib said he would discuss the matter with newly-appointed Chief Minister Datuk Abang Johari Openg soon.

"However, PBB (Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu) is quite ready to contest that seat."

PBB is expected to announce its candidate to contest the seat, which was helmed by Adenan since 2006, once the seven-day mourning period ends. Adenan died of heart complications last Wednesday.