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'MAJOR IMPLICATION'

# DR M MAKES U-TURN ON DPM JOB

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Former premier's  
revelation most  
bizarre, says Najib

SYED UMAR ARIFF  
AND BALVIN KAUR  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad has admitted that DAP will be given the deputy prime minister's post, if the opposition wins federal power, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

The sudden U-turn in the stand of the former prime minister, who once labelled DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang as a "racist, anti-Islam and anti-Malay", Najib said, was most bizarre.

"Last night (Thursday), I read his admission, that if the opposition wins, DAP will get the deputy prime minister position.

"Ladies and gentlemen, he (Dr Mahathir) spent 22 years attacking Kit Siang. He labelled Kit Siang as a racist, anti-Islam and anti-Malay.

"And now, suddenly, he wants to give Kit Siang the position of deputy prime minister. Does this make sense?" he said in his speech at the launch of the inaugural "Jom Bantu Rakyat" programme in Titiwangsa here.

Najib said political expediency did

not justify dealings or statements that could lead to negative repercussions for all.

"If that is the case, we have no hope for the future. Let us not, just because of politics, make such statements or dealings that will have a major implication on all of us.

"I do not have to comment further on the matter... all of you can think about the implications yourselves."

In September 2008, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng was quoted by the media, including vernacular newspapers, as saying that the DAP leadership had reached a "consensus" to recommend Kit Siang for "a very important" and "most frontline" role in the Federal Government if the opposition came to power.

In 2013, the late Karpal Singh, who was then DAP chairman, told a crowd in Penang that the party had proposed for Kit Siang to become the country's deputy prime minister if the opposition won the 13th General Election that year.

The news was also carried by pro-opposition media. It was also posted on the blog belonging to opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying in Putrajaya earlier this week that DAP did not ask for a prime minister's post, but just a deputy prime minister's post.

Najib said it was more important for the people to have a government



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak says political expediency does not justify dealings or statements that can lead to negative repercussions for all. PIC BY MUHD ZAABA ZAKERIA

that could bring the country forward.

"My colleagues and I in the government want to take Malaysia to greater heights, to be among top 20 nations in the world over the next 30 years. This can be achieved if we are not distracted by too much politicking.

"If we do not incite the people, if we do not confuse the people and if the people know the direction and extend their support, God willing, we will reach the destination that we have envisioned," he said.

Guan Eng, when pressed to commit on his party's stand on the DPM post, declined to give a straight answer. He was also non-committal when asked what "most frontline role" meant to DAP.

In the past, he had maintained that the post for Kit Siang would be on a par with other (then) Pakatan Rakyat leaders.

At press time, Guan Eng did not respond to WhatsApp queries on whether the planned leadership posts, including Kit Siang as deputy prime minister, still stood.