

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Newspaper | THE STAR        |
| Date      | 23 JANUARY 2017 |

# Najib: MCA never asked for DPM's post

*The Star - 23/1/2017*

**PORT DICKSON:** MCA has never asked for a Deputy Prime Minister's post, says Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said the Barisan Nasional party had never made such a request, not since he assumed the premiership.

"MCA has never demanded for the post ever since I became PM.

"They are already very happy with the three ministerial posts I gave them," he said when launching Kelab Belia Bell Tamil's 60th anniversary celebration here yesterday.

Najib said claims that MCA had asked for the position were lies.

In his blog, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad claimed that MCA made the demand in 2009 through its for-

mer deputy secretary-general Datuk Loke Yuen Yeow.

Prior to this, Dr Mahathir claimed that it was DAP that had demanded for the Deputy Prime Minister's post.

Without clearly referring to any individual or party, Najib said those making such "baseless allegations" should stop doing so.

"Don't make U-turns again," he said.

"We are tired of this."

In a statement, MCA secretary-general Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan said the party had never raised the post of the Deputy Prime Minister with Najib - either in private or through a formal meeting.

"Since Datuk Seri Najib took over

the reins as Prime Minister of our country, this has not been an issue raised by the present MCA leadership," he said.

"MCA is not oblivious to the precarious position that it is in right now in the political sphere.

"As such, the current focus is on nation-building and how to win back the support of the people for Barisan Nasional, in particular, the Chinese community," he said.

Dr Mahathir, said Ong, was now blaming MCA in an attempt to get himself out of a predicament he once created.

"Dr Mahathir claims that it was MCA who raised the issue of wanting the post of Deputy Prime Minister.

"The truth of the matter is that it

was he, who in the first place, had a slip of the tongue by revealing that DAP had attempted to fight for the post of Deputy Prime Minister.

"However, since then, there have been disagreements within their coalition and Dr Mahathir now attempts to push the blame onto MCA to relieve him of the predicament he had placed himself in," Ong said.

Slamming Dr Mahathir for his actions, Ong said he should not take advantage of the respect MCA had for him.

"MCA once had great respect for Dr Mahathir as a senior statesman of the country," Ong said.

"However, Dr Mahathir should not attempt to abuse this respect towards him."