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'MACHIAVELLIAN'

# 'DR M WILL STOP AT NOTHING'

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He'll even work with enemies for his own gain, says minister

HANA NAZ HARUN  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**F**ORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will stop at nothing for his political gain, even if it means working with his former enemies.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said this was "classic Dr Mahathir" behaviour, adding that it was not the first time Dr Mahathir had formed temporary alliances for his advantage.

"Dr Mahathir was sacked from Umno and he worked with Pas for almost three years to attack Umno. When Umno allowed him back into the party, he turned around and attacked Pas.

"And this is what Dr Mahathir has been doing his entire life.

"He is Machiavellian and uses people for his political gain," he told the *New Sunday Times* yesterday.

Dr Mahathir had, during a Facebook live interview with Thai journalist and Nation Multimedia Group chairman Suthichai Yoon, defended his decision to sack and imprison Pakatan Harapan de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in 1998.

In the 40-minute interview, Dr Mahathir said at the time, he was "responding to the situation at hand", and that the situation now was "different".

"If you keep on raking up the

past, you can never work with anybody. You will always be fighting against your enemies, and that is bad.

"I'm not angry over the past, he (Anwar) is not angry over the past also," Dr Mahathir had said, adding that he was not embarrassed to team up with a former enemy.

He also described Anwar as being "quite capable" of being a prime minister, adding that Anwar could still make a comeback in politics if Pakatan Harapan formed the government and secured a royal pardon for the jailed opposition leader.

"If people want him, who am I to stop it?" he said.

Salleh, who is Umno treasurer, said Dr Mahathir was now "so desperate he no longer feels any shame" for being able to say nice things about Anwar, even after many years of mudslinging.

"A person prepared to sell his dignity is a person who knows he has lost everything," he added.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong said this was just one of Dr Mahathir's "many U-turns".

He predicted that Dr Mahathir's partnership with Anwar would not last past the next general election.

"This is merely a temporary alliance to get votes," he said.

Political pundit Professor Dr Sivamurugan Pandian said some who fought for Anwar during the "reformasi" movement in 1998 would question Dr Mahathir's motives and not forgive him for his past actions.

"Dr Mahathir has made it clear that his ultimate aim is to bring down Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, even if he has to work with those who were his enemies then."