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## 'People no longer paying attention to crimes of past leaders'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the legal action mounted against former leaders for abuse of power and corruption was not motivated by revenge, but out of respect for the law.

The Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, however, said it was unfortunate the people had grown "bored" and were no longer paying attention to misdeeds committed by the previous administration.

"They only want to see the ef-

fects of the economic recovery. Now, these former leaders have become vocal about teaching us how to handle problems — problems they created. If they are so clever, why did they not fix them during their time?" he said in his policy speech at Bersatu's second annual general assembly here yesterday.

"The attorney-general has started the ball rolling by prosecuting previous leaders for abuse of power and corruption.

However, the legal process will take time. So it is extremely disappointing when some of us reject the blatant offences committed by previous leaders.

"If these offences are not processed in accordance with the law, we would be accused of lashing out and of taking revenge. To be seen as a government that rules in accordance with the law, we must accept the slow (legal) process."

Dr Mahathir, in an apparent allusion to Umno, said leaders from

the previous government were trying to portray themselves as champions of the Malay cause.

"What is certain is that the attempt by these leaders to now become Malays' champions, such as by taking part in the recent demonstration (against the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), is insincere."

He said he was confident the people would not be easily duped. "If they (former leaders) were

sincere, we would not have these problems. What is happening now is that a party that the people once held in high regard for its struggle against the Malayan Union and in securing independence, has been rejected by the people, especially Malays, for its involvement in bribery, theft and kleptocratic practices.

"And today, they lie destroyed because of their own actions."

>> More reports on the speech at [www.nst.com.my](http://www.nst.com.my)

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