

Blogger: Moves are afoot to topple Dr M

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PETALING JAYA: Detractors within Pakatan Harapan are planning to topple Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a no-confidence vote in Parliament, claims social activist and blogger Mujahidin Zulkiffli.

In a posting on his Facebook page yesterday, Mujahidin said he found out about the plot from his sources a few weeks ago.

"Some factions are covertly planning to pull a coup most likely via a vote of no confidence in Parliament on Tun M's (Dr Mahathir) leadership," Mujahidin posted on Facebook, without naming the persons involved.

The next sitting of the Dewan Rakyat starts on March 11 and ends on April 11.

Mujahidin said that the current plot was not the first time that an attempt was made to unseat Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister follow-

ing the May 9 general election last year.

An Umno minister had earlier tried to pull a coup against Dr Mahathir by organising support "for a certain future PM of Malaysia".

However, his attempt failed when another former Umno minister helped Dr Mahathir stop the coup, which also resulted in the defection of a number of Umno lawmakers, Mujahidin claimed.

"So now, another vote of no confidence is in the planning. The Old Man (Dr Mahathir) then checks this plan by bringing seven Umno defectors into his party.

"Remember, there are about 30 more ready to jump ship," wrote Mujahidin.

Speaking to *The Star*, Mujahidin confirmed he had written the Facebook post, but declined to give

further information.

On his Facebook page profile, Mujahidin identified himself as the managing director of an online news portal with previous stints in TalentCorp Malaysia as well as in the insurance and financial sectors.

In his posting, Mujahidin wrote that PAS' agreement to support Dr Mahathir gave weight to his coup conspiracy claim.

"Why would the Old Man (Dr Mahathir) make such an unpopular move to meet PAS leaders? This has to be big," he added.

Mujahidin wrote that while many blame Dr Mahathir for bringing Umno members into Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, they should ask why the Prime Minister, who is chairman of Bersatu, needs to strengthen his position.

Mujahidin did not name Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim but pointed out

that there was an agreement for Dr Mahathir to serve as prime minister before handing over power to the PKR president.

"There's no binding timeline but he himself (Dr Mahathir) kept repeating it's two years. It's almost a year already.

"But the thing is, not even a year and someone has pulled some moves against him at least twice," he wrote on Facebook.

Mujahidin said Dr Mahathir's move to pull Umno lawmakers into Bersatu will not be popular, but the strategy made sense.

"I think he now has the numbers to turn the tables if that vote of no confidence is brought up in Parliament.

"I hope no one is stupid enough to try it. You can make him a villain but you're actually the cause of it," he added.