

WAR BETWEEN EX-PMs INTENSIFIES

As Dr M reminds Johoreans of the 1MDB scandal, Najib takes him to task over projects for 'cronies'

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THE feud between former prime ministers Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Najib Razak continued yesterday, with the former pledging to speak out against Najib or anyone "trying to ruin the country and deceive the people".

Dr Mahathir, in his second open letter to Johor voters ahead of the March 12 state election, said should Najib be allowed to return to power, it would see the country being "ruled and robbed by a kleptocrat from the court cluster" (political leaders facing trials in court).

The Parti Pejuang Tanah Air



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Datuk Seri Najib Razak

(Pejuang) president and Langkawi member of parliament, however, insisted that he had no personal vendetta against Najib.

"Let me remind all of you that when the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal was at its peak, Najib's younger brother Tan Sri Nazir himself came to meet me, asking me to do something as billions had gone missing and justice has yet to be delivered for the crimes committed.

"Nazir wrote in great length on the 1MDB scandal and the crimes committed by his brother. He (Nazir) had done so out of shame for his family.

"There are many more writings

by Nazir exposing Najib's scandal in detail."

Dr Mahathir said he was ashamed to have to continue to call out Najib.

"In all honesty, I am extremely ashamed to keep *meratib* (calling out) Najib. He has humiliated the country, our race and religion. Unfortunately, he himself is not ashamed but instead acts as if he is a victim of persecution."

Dr Mahathir claimed that Najib was hoping Malaysians would believe he is not guilty and instead a victim of political persecution.

"There are also people who have been influenced... they have come forward to defend him,

calling him their 'Boss' and kissing his hand," said Dr Mahathir referring to the "Bossku" term coined by Najib's supporters.

Dr Mahathir said he was a supporter of Najib before the 1MDB scandal came to light.

He said he had pressured Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was the country's fifth prime minister, for delaying the appointment of Najib as the deputy prime minister at the time.

He added that he did so since he felt indebted to Najib's father Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, and felt that Najib was qualified at the time.

"Sadly, Najib is nothing like his father. Tun Razak was a nationalist and a dignified champion of the nation. In contrast, Najib robbed national assets with the help of Jho Low (fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho).

"Foreign newspapers have labelled him as a 'plundering idiot' that I believe means *penyamun tongong* in the Johor language.

"Meanwhile the Court of Appeal described him as a 'national embarrassment', one who humiliated the country."

Najib, responding in a Facebook post, claimed Dr Mahathir had pressured him to support projects associated with the lat-

ter's cronies.

"Yes, I am still indebted to Tun (Dr Mahathir) for his support towards me to become the PM (prime minister).

"Maybe he pressured Pak Lah (Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) to support me. The problem is, after I became the prime minister, he pressured me to support the projects of his cronies too.

"When I refused to bow down, Tun *meroyan* (went on a rant), and conspired with (Tan Sri) Muhyiddin (Yassin) to topple me in 2014 before 1MDB became an issue," claimed the Pekan MP.

He said that Dr Mahathir's son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz, who is also Jerlun MP, had admitted that his father had conspired to topple Najib, who was then PM.

Najib, in the same posting, also said he did not understand why Dr Mahathir continued to call him out.

"I do not understand him. After the first (open) letter in which he mentioned my name, he had said that he was no longer willing to call me out.

"However, the entire content of his second (open) letter is all about me. The word 'Najib' was mentioned 10 times in the letter," said Najib.