

DR M CHIDED FOR PLAYING 'MALAY CARD'

Ex-prime minister Najib tells nonagenarian to stop using it for own agenda

KUALA LUMPUR

AN ongoing war of words between former prime ministers Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Najib

Razak saw the latter yesterday whacking the 97-year-old for using the "Malay card".

Najib, in a Facebook posting, said it was time Dr Mahathir stopped doing it just to further his own agenda.

He added that when Dr Mahathir was in power, the latter used to describe the Malays as a lazy, forgetful, politically naive and spendthrift people, who needed to stop being envious of other peoples' wealth.

When he was no longer in power, Najib said, Dr Mahathir claimed the Malays were being sidelined and oppressed.

"Enough is enough. Stop riding on 'the Malay' name anymore," he said in the posting that garnered 16,000 likes, 1,200 comments and 536 shares as at press time.

This is the second time within

a few days that Najib has called out Dr Mahathir over the latter's postings criticising the current administration.

Last week, Najib labelled Dr Mahathir as "Mr ISA", referring

to the Internal Security Act, because the latter had used the draconian act against his political rivals when he was prime minister over 30 years ago.

However, Dr Mahathir has since responded by saying that 'Operation Lalang, which was initiated during his time, was based on police recommendations.

The operation began on Oct 27, 1987 and ended on Nov 20 that same year. It saw 106 people being detained under ISA, including politicians, academics, social activists and non-governmental organisation leaders.

Forty were detained for two years but most were released within 60 days.

Three newspapers — *The Star*, *Sin Chew Daily* and the now-defunct *Watan* — were suspended during the operation.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Datuk Seri Najib Razak