

**Mukhriz Accepts Being Dr M's Son Has Helped His Political Career**  
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ALOR SETAR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir accepts the fact that being the son of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has helped his political career.

The Jerlun member of parliament, however, hopes of being given the chance to prove his own capability.

"Whether I like it or not, I have to accept that this factor (being Dr Mahathir's son) has helped me. (However) I am working hard on my own to show what I can do," he said after his visit to Universiti Tun Abdul Razak , here, today.

He said he was not bothered about being in the shadow of his illustrious father who was Malaysia's prime minister for 22 years and regarded as being "my father's son", but instead considered it an honour.

"I am proud of my fathers' achievements. It's not for me to deny all that he has done. And I won't say that I want to get out of my father's shadow.

"After all, my name carries the bin (son of) Mahathir...this I cannot change. I'm not bothered if people want to link me with him. It's a positive link.

"But if people want to compare me with him, it's a long shot. I'm still very new compared to my father," he said.

Mukhriz shared that when his father was prime minister, the opposition raised the issue on nepotism but were not bothered that they were practising it now.

"At that time, he (Dr Mahathir) really wanted to avoid nepotism by not having his close relatives actively involved in politics. That was among the reasons why my elder brother Datuk Mokhzani's political career was hampered...it was not approved by my father.

"As for me, I had to wait for my father to retire before I could contest a party post and in the general election to avoid conflicting interests between family and people's.

"This is different from the opposition. It's not odd for them to have father and son as member of parliament and state assemblyman.

"In a certain (opposition) party, the three top posts are held by members of the same family. This they have not raised. They don't think of the conflicting family and party interests," he said.

On another matter, Mukhriz said Umno and BN should not depend on the weaknesses and problems within the opposition parties and between partners in the opposition group as this would not help much, but to work hard to win in the coming general election.

Mukhriz, who is also Kedah Umno liaison deputy chief, said voters, especially the young, would have a different view of the conflicts between the opposition partners.

"If the young voters are fed-up with both sides (BN and opposition) and the country's political situation, many may not come out to vote because they think 'they all the same'," he said.

As for Kedah Umno, he said it was working to solve problems at the divisional level, with the problems already solved in some of the divisions.

"It is important for all to be united to ensure victory for the chosen candidates. There should be no ill feelings, and more importantly, no sabotage," he said.

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