

Dr M: Don't fear me, the 'toothless tiger'
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Jul 9: Continuing his public spat with DAP's Lim Kit Siang, former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad was clearly annoyed with constant use of the term 'Mahathirism' to describe Barisan Nasional's rule.

Lim had earlier said that Mahathir's "legacy of corruption, cronyism and abuses of power" continued by Abdullah Badawi contributed to BN's poor performance in the 2008 elections.

"While denying that there is such thing as 'Mahathirism', Mahathir is working very hard to restore and entrench Mahathirism as the official creed of the UMNO/BN after the 13GE, whether led by Najib (Razak) or somebody else," said Lim.

But in a blog posting today, Mahathir, under whose premiership Lim served as the parliamentary opposition leader, said Abdullah had in fact destroyed 'Mahathirism' while Najib Razak's administration did not reflect policies of his era.

As such, the former UMNO strongman insisted that 'Mahathirism' was long gone.

"It is an exercise in futility as Mahathirism is a figment of his (Lim's) imagination. He should not be afraid of this toothless tiger figuratively speaking," wrote Mahathir.

Mahathir also defended his support for his son Mukhriz's rise in politics.

"If Najib chooses him as a candidate I will campaign for him as I would campaign for other UMNO/BN candidates. After all Kit Siang promoted his son Guan Eng all the way to become Chief Minister of Penang when he was the powerful secretary of the DAP."

Lim and Mahathir's public spat began after Lim suggested that Mahathir had been at the forefront of the BN's attacks on PR due to anxieties over his future. Mahathir then responded by saying that Lim would like to see him suffer the fate of recent casualties of the 'Arab Spring'.

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