

Dr Mahathir backs Najib's suit against Malaysiakini
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By Lee Shi-Ian

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has come out in support of Datuk Seri Najib Razak's defamation suit against Malaysiakini, saying it is the prime minister's right to do so.

"It is Najib's right to sue Malaysiakini," Dr Mahathir said, when asked about the recent suit filed against the news portal for two articles which were allegedly defamatory.

Reflecting on his five-year legal battle against former deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim between 2006 and 2010, Dr Mahathir said that filing lawsuits was a costly option, and one he did not embark on as he had no money.

"At the end of the entire saga, the suit was dismissed with costs and I received RM70,000.

"That was barely enough for me to cover all the legal fees accumulated over that period of time," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also a former prime minister, added that as a politician, one would either be praised or cursed.

"I have been accused of being anti-Hadith, and I have also been called a kafir (infidel). Apparently, all Umno people are infidels," he said.

Najib's lawyers yesterday served Malaysiakini with a writ of summons and the statement of claim which was hand delivered to the news portal's administrators in Bangsar.

Najib named Malaysiakini publisher Mkini Dotcom Sdn Bhd, editor-in-chief Steven Gan and chief news editor Fathi Aris Omar as defendants.

Dr Mahathir said as this was politics, he would not have taken the same action.

"I don't and I won't sue. They call me anything also, they can.

"This is politics. In politics, you get cursed. That's alright," said Dr Mahathir.

On last weekend's Teluk Intan by-election, Dr Mahathir said he did not know whether Malaysians was returning to Barisan Nasional.

"In the 13th general election, Pakatan Rakyat won by a 7,313 majority. So it is either these 7,000 voters did not cast their ballots or they did not support DAP.

"This is my observation of the Teluk Intan by-election," Dr Mahathir said.

On Umno's disciplinary proceedings brought against Yammy Samat, the mother of the Teluk Intan candidate Dyana Sofya Mohd Daud, Dr Mahathir said this was a normal process.

"If you have done something wrong, then you must answer for your actions," said the former Umno president.

Yammy was given a show-cause letter yesterday by Umno as she was alleged to have campaigned for her daughter in the just-concluded by-election.

As for the recent controversy involving confectionery giant Cadbury, Dr Mahathir said the probe should be an open and transparent process.

"When there are leaks to the press, then confusion will reign," he said. – June 4, 2014.

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