

**Ex-editor and Dr Mahathir discussed Najib and Umno**  
**TheRakyatPost**  
**Sept 26, 2014**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 26, 2014:** Former *New Straits Times* (NST) editor-in-chief Datuk Abdul Kadir Jasin wrote in his blog that former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had attended several Kedai Kopi (Coffeeshop) Assembly (KKA) sessions, mostly discussing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak. Aside from Dr Mahathir, the KKA also included two other former Umno ministers, several bloggers, journalists, corporate sector executives, retired policemen, padi farmers, Bumiputera car salesmen, young leaders of Umno branches, a Chinese doctor at a private hospital and an ex-stockbroker. Kadir wrote that Dr Mahathir was not being rude or rash when he announced on Sept 10 that he had withdrawn support for Najib. "He (Dr Mahathir) had informed the prime minister of that before hand.

"Weeks before the blog posting, he wrote a letter to the prime minister outlining what he saw as the latter's failure and stating that he could no longer support him," said Kadir. He continued that during a Sept 19 KKA session, also attended by two other bloggers including a former minister, Dr Mahathir said the points he raised in the letter were the issues the people brought to his attention. "He said not all young Malays are against Umno and not all non-Malays are against the BN. They are against the top leadership of Umno, the BN and the government. They even raised the issue of wives of these top leaders. "Only after he received no response from the prime minister that he made his stand known via his blog because he felt responsible to those who came to see him and asked him to bring their concerns to the attention of the prime minister.

"Dr Mahathir told us that instead of responding to his letter, the prime minister sent an intermediary to ask him to withdraw it. "Dr Mahathir said he has done his part and it is up to Umno and the people to decide the future of the prime minister but he did not believe Umno would act on its president. The Umno president may be strong but the party is weak," said Kadir. Touching briefly on Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Kadir said that talk of the Umno deputy president being tired and not interested in becoming the prime minister was unproductive. "The Umno deputy president should stop talking about being tired and wanting to retire. Instead he should up the ante as the voice of the ordinary Umno members in particular and the Malays in general." Even the younger generation of leaders like Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Datuk Seri Muhkriz Mahathir were not spared after a young executive and a former committee member of overseas Umno Club said they should "be brave and open in defending the future of the *bangsa* (race) and the country and fulfil the aspirations of young Malays and Malaysians". "They should stop playing safe and becoming apple polishers. They should emulate young Umno leaders of the past like Dr Mahathir and late (former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri) Harun Idris who took risks for the sake of the party and the country," said Kadir. He also said that hypocrites

and apple polishers should stop treating the rakyat like fools by saying they respected Dr Mahathir and supported the prime minister. “They should be replying to Dr Mahathir’s *teguran* (criticisms). To say they respect Dr Mahathir and support the prime minister is not the answer. To say time has changed is also not the answer. Dr Mahathir’s *teguran* are about policies and they need serious replies. “Dr Mahathir is not demanding respect. He is asking them to listen to the *rintihan* (grievances) of the rakyat, mend their ways, be less corrupt, work harder and make Umno strong and respectable again,” said Kadir, adding that they should be with party members instead of tugging at the coattails of ministers. Going back to Najib later in the blog posting, Kadir wrote that Dr Mahathir had tried to quietly advise Najib and compared him to the previous prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. “Six months after the May 2013 general elections, Dr Mahathir met him. Dr Mahathir said he told the prime minister that his election strategy was wrong. The prime minister was banking on his personal popularity and cash handouts. Dr Mahathir said cash did not buy votes but the prime minister seems to believe that cash is king. “Dr Mahathir said Najib did badly in 2013, worse than Abdullah did in 2008. Umno got rid of Abdullah but not Najib. “What lessons have Umno learnt? What has happened to the post-mortem? Has Umno made changes? These are the posers that “sincere” Umno leaders should answer instead of saying they respect Dr Mahathir and support the prime minister,” said Kadir.

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Source: <http://www.therakyatpost.com/news/2014/10/02/government-bring-back-ppsmi-says-dr-m/>