

## **Mahathir says Umno only party for Malays**

**Free Malaysia Today**

**May 4, 2015**

**By Shane Fuentes**

### **Former PM does not spell out from whom the Malays need protection.**

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, repeated his oft-cited mantra that the Malays should root for Umno only. If they reject the party then the community would be doomed since they would no longer be protected, he added.

He was warning against the possibility of Umno falling in the next General Election in 2018. He urged that the Malays unite under Umno but without the scandal-ridden Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

“I did some calculations and found that if Najib leads the Barisan Nasional (BN), come 2018, it would face certain defeat in the general elections,” said Mahathir. “That means that the safeguards that the Malays had enjoyed since independence would be stripped from them.”

“This would be the last time we see Malay interests and Islam protected.”

Mahathir did not spell out in detail how the Malays would be threatened and why they needed protection through Umno. He also did not spell out from whom the Malays needed protection.

He referred to rumours of Najib’s lifestyle going viral in the social media. “We can see that he’s maintaining a very wealthy lifestyle. This comes in the wake of reports that billions of ringgit had been lost.”

“Don’t turn a blind eye to a leader perceived to be corrupt.”

He reminded that Umno used to have the support of the non-Malays as well but it was no longer so. “Najib lost seven more parliamentary seats compared with his predecessor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.”

Najib has pointed out that Umno added another nine seats in 2013 compared with its tally in 2008 under Badawi.

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2015/05/04/mahathir-says-umno-only-party-for-malays/>