Embarrassed by Malaysia, Dr M claims democracy is dead
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he is left stumped by current issues facing the country, claiming that "democracy is dead" in Malaysia due to the handling of the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) crisis.

He said he found himself unable to respond to questions from people abroad on what is happening to the country or deflect claims that Malaysia is "totally corrupt" or similar to "one of those African or Arab countries".

"I cannot answer truthfully. I cannot lie either. It is embarrassing. And all this is because of the 1MDB and Najib," he said in the latest post on his blog, referring to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In a lengthy tirade against his one-time protege, Dr Mahathir claimed that Najib's shakeup of the Cabinet and agencies currently probing the state-owned firm has effectively put the prime minister in the clear of any claims of impropriety.

Dr Mahathir said the country has never seen an elected leader forcibly remove from positions of power any and all who chose to pursue the claims made against 1MDB, as seen in the removal of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as deputy prime minister and the sudden changes announced in the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission (MACC).

The former prime minister warned that the situation could reach a point where even the electoral process would be so undermined that the opposition would no longer be able to win whole states, as it has done over the past two national polls.

"Democracy is dead. It is dead because an elected leader chooses to subvert the institutions of Government and make them his instruments for sustaining himself.

"There is no more democracy for anyone to undermine. Certainly talking about 1MDB will not undermine something that no longer exists. If anyone should be questioned by the police, it is Najib," Dr Mahathir said.

Late last month, Najib announced a Cabinet reshuffle which saw the removal of Muhyiddin and those seen critical of his handling of 1MDB from the federal administration.

Putrajaya also announced on the same day the sudden change of the Attorney-General — who was leading a multi-agency taskforce probing claims of US$700 million (RM2.6 billion) in funds allegedly misappropriated into the prime minister's personal bank accounts.

Two MACC senior officers involved in the investigation were also supposed to have been transferred to the Prime Minister's Department today, though the Chief Secretary to the Government has since rescinded the transfer order.

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