

Is Najib preparing to sack Dr M, asks DAP
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak's tirade against "bad characters" in Umno yesterday was a clear reference to his harshest critic in the party, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, DAP said today, adding that it raised the possibility the former prime minister would be sacked from the party.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said Najib had gone on a political offensive yesterday, and that the Umno president may be setting the stage for Dr Mahathir to be sacked for the second time from his party.

"Najib was clearly responding to Dr Mahathir when he said in Kedah yesterday that Umno was capable of remaining in power and winning elections if 'bad characters' were not in the party," he said in a statement.

"Is Najib setting the stage for the expulsion of Dr Mahathir from Umno, which will be another history for Mahathir – out of Umno three times, twice expelled from Umno and quitting once on his own."

Lim was referring to news reports that Najib had yesterday called on Umno members to ignore "jemuan-jemuan" (bad characters) and apple-polishers as these people caused disunity among the ranks.

Speaking at the 2015 Kedah Umno convention in Alor Star, Najib said Umno was capable of remaining in power and winning elections if these "unwanted people" were not in the party.

"The persons who immediately come to mind are Umno's longest-serving prime minister and president, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, his two-time finance minister, Tun Daim Zainuddin and his 'hullubalangs' like former information minister and Utusan Malaysia editor-in-chief (Tan Sri) Zainuddin Maidin," said Lim.

He added that it was noteworthy that Najib has chosen Kedah to "go on the offensive" and that Najib made the speech before Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, when everybody knew Dr Mahathir was heading the attacks against Najib.

Lim said Dr Mahathir in his blog last month had said something was rotten in Malaysia, and that Najib should resign if he could not perform.

He said Dr Mahathir had been critical of the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal, and had called on Najib to explain the source of his wealth.

Dr Mahathir was expelled from Umno in 1969, after sending a letter to then prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman calling for his resignation.

He returned to the party after the first prime minister stepped down, but quit the

party in 2008, citing lack of lack confidence in Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's leadership.

Dr Mahathir applied to become a member of Umno again a year later, after Abdullah resigned as party president. – March 15, 2015.

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