

Umno today is about money, Dr M fires back at critics
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As Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad comes under fire from the party he led for 22 years, the former president lambasted his critics, saying that Umno now "was about money".

Under the current leadership, Umno was filled with rent-seeking leaders who were loyal only to money, Dr Mahathir said in a video uploaded on the blog Din Turtle yesterday.

The former prime minister's latest tirade comes as he himself has been criticised by Umno members for causing a rift in the party with his constant attacks against his successor Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"The Umno now is about money. The leaders of Umno are loyal because they get contracts.

"The ones who receive posts receive money," Dr Mahathir said in response to the claim that his criticism was dividing Umno members.

Although Dr Mahathir has claimed that Najib would bring Umno down, some in Umno have countered that it was his constant attacks against the prime minister that was weakening Umno.

"Umno is already split. The Umno that I led was quite powerful. If you looked at the assembly (then) the spirit was there.

"The Umno now is about money," Dr Mahathir said in response to a question that his calls for Najib to resign were splitting Umno between pro-Najib and pro-Mahathir camps.

Dr Mahathir has become the face of a movement within the party to oust Najib, who remains a powerful leader and is able to command the support of almost all of the party's grassroots leaders at the division level.

Dr Mahathir has called for Najib to resign over his fiscal policy missteps such as 1Malaysia People's Aid scheme (BR1M) and 1Malaysia Development Berhad's RM42 billion debts.

He has also said that if Najib did not resign, Umno and the Barisan Nasional coalition would lose the next general election.

He and Umno veterans such as former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin have claimed that all the support Najib was getting in Umno was insincere. In the three-minute clip, Dr Mahathir repeated his reasons he thought Najib should resign.

"The New Economic Policy (NEP), the Malays being disappointed. It's very deep (the

reasons). They come and see me, ordinary people," Dr Mahathir said, adding that they complained about Najib's administration.

"They say) scholarships are hard to get. In the past, you could get them."

He also defended his right to criticise Najib, saying that when it came to national and Malay issues, he has the right to talk about them as he considered himself Malay, even though this has been disputed.

"About the country and the Malays, I am here, I am a Malay. Although some people say I am not. Legally I am Malay. I've struggled for this.

"It is the right of people to reject what I say but it is my right to criticise."

Dr Mahathir can then be seen in the video nodding his head to the question that as a Malay leader, Najib has failed. – April 12, 2015.

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