

**Khairy says not to pressure Mukhriz on support for PM, reports portal
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Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin says the pressure on Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir to express support for the prime minister should stop, the Star Online reported.

Mukhriz was a "seasoned politician" who could make his own stand at his own time, Khairy said of the son of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is now Datuk Seri Najib Razak's fiercest critic.

"I believe he understands the situation and he will make a statement on his position in due time.

"He is a seasoned politician. He is aware of what is going on and I believe he will make his stance. There is no need to pressure him," the news portal quoted Khairy saying today after a Youth and Sports Ministry function.

As Umno leaders rush to defend Najib, their party president, Mukhriz has come under fire for not openly stating his support towards the prime minister.

A Kedah Umno state lawmaker even called for Mukhriz to step down from his state position if the latter did not publicly state his support for Najib, saying the Kedah menteri besar owed his job to the prime minister.

Bukit Lada assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Lebai Sudin had also criticised Mukhriz for linking his support towards Najib to the investigation of debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"The menteri besar's post is appointed by the prime minister with the support of Barisan Nasional assemblymen. If he no longer supports the prime minister, it is best to resign," Ahmad Lebai was quoted as saying.

Najib has been under fierce attack by veteran Umno leaders such as former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, in addition to Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir, a former Umno president and prime minister who led Malaysia for 22 years, has called for Najib to resign, saying that Umno and the Barisan Nasional ruling coalition will lose the next general election if he did not do so.

This has triggered a wave of support for Najib from Umno grassroots leaders and leaders of other BN component parties. – April 14, 2015.

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