

Fight it out with Dr M 'like a gladiator', Guan Eng tells Najib
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak should battle it out with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a debate instead of answering the former prime minister's criticism in a blog posting, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng was reported as saying today.

He said Najib should face Dr Mahathir "like a gladiator" in a "real-life arena" to counter the allegations against him, rather than responding from a "controlled and laboratory type of environment".

"Have a debate. Instead of writing in his blog and FAQ in a controlled and laboratory-like environment. Let the people decide," Lim was quoted as saying by Malaysiakini, in a press conference in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur.

"Go into a real life arena. Battle it out, man-to-man, with Mahathir."

Dr Mahathir had openly called for Najib's resignation due to the latter's policies and also the controversy surrounding his brainchild, 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), which sits on an RM42 billion debt.

He also criticised the lifestyle of Najib's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and said he believed that Barisan Nasional would lose the next general election if Najib, who is also Umno president, was not removed.

But Lim was drawn into Dr Mahathir's criticism when the former prime minister yesterday told the press that he would ask both Lim and Najib to resign if he had the opportunity to write letters to them.

Dr Mahathir said that having a different state government and federal government "does no good to the country".

"For over 60 years, we had peace and stability. When you have a different state government from the federal government, it leads to antagonism. It is not doing the country any good," he said. "Maybe we should get a person who is well-versed in history, someone who appreciates what we shared before."

Referring to Lim, Dr Mahathir said that a leader must believe in the collective development of Malaysians and should not allow one race to "dominate" other races.

"You cannot dominate and disregard other races," he said.

Today Lim said that he did not want to be drawn into a match with Dr Mahathir, Malaysiakini reported.

"I don't want to be drawn into the Najib-Mahathir battle. Let them fight. See who comes out with better arguments.

"While I disagree with Mahathir's attack against me, I feel that Najib should respond to Mahathir's challenge to a debate," he was quoted as saying. – May 19, 2015.

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