

**Strongman Dr M at it again with Najib, says Australian paper**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's testy relationship with Australia while he led Malaysia is not lost on the media there, with the Sydney Morning Herald noting the "irony" in his bid to oust current prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"It's hard to escape the irony that Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian strongman who terrorised Australian prime ministers and diplomats for 22 years, is now railing against his successor in the name of good governance and accountability," the Australian daily said in a May 8 article.

Australia was on the receiving end of Dr Mahathir's acerbic tongue over policy differences during his 22 years as Malaysian prime minister, and the Herald recalled his authoritarian approach in the way he "decapitated" the media, police, judiciary, his Cabinet members as well as the opposition.

The paper noted the irony that Dr Mahathir, who had "(channelled) enormous contracts to his insiders" was now preaching good governance and accountability in his attempts to remove Najib.

The Herald recounted the previous deputies Dr Mahathir had also dislodged – Tan Sri Musa Hitam in the 1980s and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in 1998 – besides "the more compliant" Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who succeeded him as prime minister, only to become his target.

"Now he fears that Najib is sending his beloved United Malays National Organisation (Umno) hurtling towards the abyss," the Herald said.

The article also carried interviews with opposition figures Nurul Izzah Anwar, Rafizi Ramli and Tony Pua, as well as Umno leaders Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah and Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohammed.

They were interviewed on troubled government-owned strategic investment firm 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) and its impact on Malaysian politics since Najib is also Finance Minister and chairman of the fund's advisory board.

But despite Najib's weakened position, the Herald noted that it would be difficult to remove him because of the "damage that Mahathir did to the country's checks and balances".

The paper said Malaysian politics was no longer predictable and had even become more entertaining, with Najib's supporters highlighting Dr Mahathir's nepotism involving his sons. – May 10, 2015.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/strongman-dr-m-at-it-again-with-najib-says-australian-paper>