

Najib praises Pak Lah for 'letting go' after retirement
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By Ram Anand

In a jibe at former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today praised his predecessor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for learning to "let go" after the latter's retirement.

Officiating at a government-linked company's (GLC) graduation ceremony at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre today, Najib praised Abdullah for initiating the GLC transformation programme a decade ago.

"I congratulate Abdullah for having launched this programme ten years ago, and also for having learned to let go after retirement," he said.

His comment evoked laughter from his audience.

Dr Mahathir, the country's longest serving prime minister, is Najib's chief critic and has called for the latter's resignation on several occasions.

Najib recently removed his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in a cabinet reshuffle and also replaced the Attorney-General whilst a probe was taking place against allegations that RM2.6 billion entered his accounts.

The financial scandal involving 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), Najib's brainchild, had drawn extensive criticism from Dr Mahathir since early this year, and the latter had openly stated that Barisan Nasional would lose the next general elections should Najib continue to be at the helm.

Najib however had retorted to the allegations as Dr Mahathir's interference in national affairs, while claiming that Dr Mahathir was working hand in hand with foreign agents to "topple" him.

Recently, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) declared that the RM 2.6 billion in Najib's accounts were from political donations.

Abdullah, who succeeded Dr Mahathir in 2003, was also subject to intense criticism by Dr Mahathir, which led to his resignation and Najib's ascension as PM in 2009. – August 7, 2015.

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