

No-confidence vote against Najib legal and necessary, says Dr Mahathir
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Removing Datuk Seri Najib Razak through a vote of no confidence in Parliament is not only legal but necessary, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In his latest blog post today, the former prime minister rubbished the apparent move by Najib and his supporters to paint the act as a coup d'etat.

"He and his supporters are trying to make out that a vote of no confidence against him by Parliament is not proper and constitutes an abuse of the democratic system and an illegal attempt to overthrow the elected government.

"But everyone knows that a vote of no confidence is absolutely legal," wrote Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir added that it was crucial that Najib be removed this way, as Barisan Nasional (BN) lawmakers were now "beholden" to the prime minister after receiving "lucrative posts" in the government from him.

The BN MPs not awarded posts had turned around after short, closed-door talks and "appeals to greed", said Dr Mahathir.

He zeroed in on Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Samad, who recently said there was nothing wrong with receiving money from the party president.

Dr Mahathir insisted that this was improper, adding that all donations in the past had been made to the party's fund operated by the trustees.

Dr Mahathir said it appeared that Najib was bribing leaders to gain their support, adding that the prime minister had previously said they should support him since they were receiving money from him.

"He has corrupted Umno and those who accepted money from him support corruption in the party," said Dr Mahathir.

"Really, Najib has made Umno, the party that won independence for Malaysia, into a rotten and corrupt party. People are disgusted with Umno now."

He added there was now an attempt to intimidate BN lawmakers who supported the no-confidence vote by naming them publicly.

"They are being accused of working with the opposition. This is a warning to other BN members not to support the no-confidence vote.

"It may be necessary once again to give BN MPs a holiday in Taiwan."

Dr Mahathir was referring to the BN lawmakers' 2008 "study trip" to Taiwan, which in reality was organised to prevent Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from enticing them to form a new federal government on September 16 that year.

Last Saturday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said an Umno man was leading a plot to topple the government with the support of the opposition.

He said they were seeking the signatures of both BN and opposition lawmakers for a statutory declaration to remove the government, and vowed he would not allow it to happen.

But Dr Mahathir today said the Perak constitutional crisis of 2009 showed that changing government leaders through such a method should not be an issue for anyone.

"Najib seems to have forgotten that BN overthrew the elected government of Perak by claiming it had majority support in the state assembly. It should have done so through a vote of non-confidence.

"But BN was not sure that it would have majority support if the state assembly sat. So it made out its case before the ruler despite there being no provision in the constitution or laws of the country for a ruler to dismiss an elected government."

Zahid's claim on Saturday led to former deputy minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and veteran Umno leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, or Ku Li, denying any part of the alleged controversy.

Meanwhile, a blog published the names of 20 BN MPs said to be part of the plot, including Muhyiddin, Khairy Jamaluddin, and Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

While Zahid has declared all 20 of them innocent, he refused to clear Ku Li's name when asked directly by reporters.

Ku Li admitted on Saturday that he had recently met with Dr Mahathir, but said the plot to overthrow the government was news to him. – August 20, 2015.

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