

Umno MPs won't vote against Najib if BN toppled, says Dr Mahathir
The Malaysian Insider
August 20, 2015

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said while there were MPs in the ruling party Umno who might support a vote of no-confidence against Datuk Seri Najib Razak's leadership, they would not do so if their action led to the toppling of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

The country's longest serving prime minister said BN MPs would not like to be instrumental in bringing down their own government.

"If the opposition is really keen to be rid of Najib, they can only do so if only Najib goes but the BN government stays, led by another leader.

"The opposition would have to find a formula which would see a BN without Najib still forming the government if it wants BN MPs' support," Dr Mahathir said in his blog chedet.cc today.

The retired statesman said that the opposition had always won seats in the Dewan Rakyat and had even beaten BN in many states, but warned that this might change because of Najib's "lack of respect for law and constitution".

"Najib's lack of respect for the law and constitution and his willingness to buy politicians and civil servants may mean the end of parliamentary democracy in Malaysia.

"It can mean no opposition just as in Umno, opposition to him has been snuffed out."

He said there were many in Umno who would like to see Najib booted out of office following claims of abuse of power and corruption.

"If the demand for Najib to step down by Umno rank and file is assessed, there would be quite a number of the party's MPs who would also like to see Najib removed.

"They do not believe the nonsensical explanations about the disappearance of 1MDB money or the RM2.6 billion in Najib's private account," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that although Malaysians were also worried and angry with Najib, the embattled prime minister would not be "beyond rigging elections" to ensure that he stayed in power.

"But from reports and comments in the alternative media, the opposition and most Malaysians are truly worried and angry over Najib's abuses of power," Dr Mahathir said.

"He would not be beyond rigging elections to ensure winning the next election."

On Monday, Dr Mahathir said that any attempt to oust Najib as prime minister through a vote of no-confidence in Parliament would likely not succeed, as nearly all Umno members appeared to be backing Najib despite strong public opinion wanting him to go.

His remarks came in the wake of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi saying last weekend that an Umno leader was behind a plot to topple the government with support from opposition lawmakers.

Zahid, who is also Umno vice-president, said he had learned that they were preparing statutory declarations (SD) to remove the government. – August 20, 2015.

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