

Kit Siang hails Mahathir's two-party support
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It is still premature to determine whether new political developments can shake Najib's iron grip although Malaysia was entering uncharted waters.

KUALA LUMPUR: It's better late than never that former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad realised that no party should rule forever and that "the best way forward" for the country was to have two political parties/coalitions as this would ensure that one or the other would win a majority to form the government, noted suspended Gelang Patah MP Lim Kit Siang in a statement.

"This is a far cry from his earlier statement that he was only interested in getting Najib Abdul Razak replaced as Prime Minister."

At last, added Lim, even Mahathir was learning — despite his advanced years — the basic principles of a developed democratic system, that a two-coalition system was better than any one-party rule.

This is the dilemma faced by all Malaysians, conceded Lim, the need for a new mindset when they are confronted with the gravity of the multitude of national crises plaguing the country. "The issue is not whether to save an individual even if he is the Prime Minister or a political party even though it has been the backbone of the ruling coalition for the past 58 years since Merdeka in 1957."

"The issue is how to save Malaysia from becoming a rogue and failed state where there is a breakdown of the rule of law and collapse of good governance and the principles of accountability, transparency and integrity in public life. Umno leaders have lost the national purpose and perspective."

Mahathir's newly-found fascination with democracy, said Lim, must be read in conjunction with an online news report of a group of Umno branch leaders, calling itself "Gabungan Ketua Cawangan Malaysia" or "Coalition of Branch Chiefs Malaysia" (GKCM), demanding Najib's resignation to resolve the party's problems.

Lim referred to the three objectives of the Group: the Umno president must step down; there should be no sacking of Umno members who criticize or condemn leaders; and Umno elections must go on.

"Najib's RM2.6 billion 'donation' and the RM50 billion 1MDB twin mega scandals as well as his other policy disasters like the GST are the fuel causing such a revolt in Umno," pointed out Lim.

GKCM and Mahathir's belated realization that the two-coalition political system which Pakatan was seeking to achieve in GE14 are important building blocks for a functioning and effective democracy — not anti-national — are constitute salutary developments in Malaysian politics, continued Lim.

However, he agreed that it was still premature to determine whether these new political forces and developments can shake Najib's iron grip and control of Umno structure and institutions although Malaysia was heading towards very stormy waters in uncharted seas.

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