

I'm prepared to have head chopped off, says Dr Mahathir
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By Anisah Shukry

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he is prepared to face the consequences of speaking out against the leadership, as police investigations against the former prime minister nears completion.

"When you stick out your neck, be prepared to have it chopped off," he told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur today.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked if he was ready to be charged or arrested, since the investigation papers on him would be referred to the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) for further action in two weeks' time.

He added that he did not care what others thought of him, and would continue speaking out if he felt something was wrong.

"I will have my say. This is supposed to be a democratic country with freedom of speech. The moment I mention that the prime minister should be changed, that becomes crime.

"Under which law? In any country, asking the prime minister to step down is normal."

He added that under Najib's leadership, the country was "half-way" towards a stage where corruption becomes institutionalised and graft is a "fact of life".

"When we find that people accept people who are corrupt, are very supportive of corrupt people, very soon everybody will be corrupt," he said.

Police had recorded Mahathir's statement at his office in Kuala Lumpur on Friday over his criticism of the prime minister.

The authorities had opened several investigation papers after police reports were made against Mahathir, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said last month.

These investigations were related to Section 500 of the Penal Code for defamation.

Mahathir, 90, has been Najib's staunch critic for the longest time and has openly asked the prime minister to step down over his alleged "failure" to govern the country as well as over the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar was also reported as saying that police would question Mahathir over comments he made at the Bersih 4 rally in August.

The former leader had made brief appearances at the two-day protest organised by the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections, better known as Bersih 2.0. – November 11, 2015.

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