

If you want change, Najib must be removed, Dr Mahathir tells Ambiga
Malaysian Insider
Nov 11, 2015
By Anisah Shukry

Anyone interested in bringing change to the country should focus on removing the leadership first, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today in response to a civil society leader who said the focus should be on reforming government institutions.

The retired statesman admitted he was only concerned with ousting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, and that changing the system should be left to the next leader.

"As far as I'm concerned, I think unless the leadership is changed, don't expect change," Dr Mahathir told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur today.

He said this when asked to respond to social activist Datuk Ambiga Sreevenasan's statement that she was willing to work with the former prime minister if he agreed to change the country's system of government instead of focusing solely in Najib's removal.

On Monday, Ambiga said civil societies should not agree with an agenda that focused solely on "replacing one guy".

"I'm very concerned about... change in the leadership. But whatever comes after that is up to the leader to decide," said Mahathir.

"My first priority is to get Najib to step down, that's why I joined the (Bersih 4) demonstration. As to others, it is up to the majority to decide."

Najib has been under fire over the RM2.6 billion deposited into his personal accounts by an unknown Middle Eastern donor ahead of the 2013 general election as well as controversies surrounding his brainchild, state-owned investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB)

These have prompted Najib's critics, led by Mahathir, to call for his resignation.

Malaysia's longest serving prime minister had attended the Bersih 4 rally in August. He said he did not support the electoral reform group's calls for institutional change and was there because he wanted Najib to step down.

At the rally, Mahathir had talked about Najib's taking of funds, which resulted in the retired statesman being questioned by police for criminal defamation last Friday. – November 11, 2015.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/if-you-want-change-najib-must-be-removed-dr-mahathir-tells-ambiga>