

Government and UMNO Leaders Slam Dr M for Working with Opposition

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Government and UMNO leaders have condemned Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for joining hands with the opposition against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

A government spokesperson said Dr Mahathir and his former enemies "have demonstrated the depth of political opportunism and desperation".

The former prime minister led a group of more than 50 people - including DAP's Lim Kit Siang and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Azmin Ali of PKR - in signing a declaration supporting the removal of Najib as PM "through non-violent and legally permissible means".

Other signatories included former Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, former Kedah MB Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Mahathir and former MCA president Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Deputy Prime Minister and UMNO vice president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said that any move to bring down the PM outside the democratic process was illegal.

He said that Malaysia had its own system of law and democracy for choosing the Prime Minister.

"Our laws must be obeyed and the democratic system that we have been upholding must continue to be honoured," he told reporters in Jasin, Melaka.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak said Dr Mahathir's anti-Najib alliance with opposition leaders was doomed from the start.

Their effort to oust Najib had failed and the signing of the declaration was "just a face-saving exercise", he said in a posting on his blog.

Barisan Nasional Strategic Communication director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said Dr Mahathir's latest action would only strengthen Najib's position as Prime Minister and UMNO president.

"(His) collaborating with sworn enemies of UMNO will only strengthen PM's position

within UMNO. I thank you Tun," he said in his twitter account.

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