

**Putrajaya becoming like North Korea, says Dr Mahathir**  
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**By Md Izwan**

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia will become like North Korea following Putrajaya's latest move to block The Malaysian Insider news website.

The former prime minister said Datuk Seri Najib Razak was blocking information from the people because the government was afraid of the truth.

"The government is afraid that people might know the truth. That's why they have to block. It is to safeguard what they are doing. To hide what they are doing," he told reporters at an event at KLCC in the capital today.

The retired statesman, who has become the prime minister's chief critic, said Najib was following in the footsteps of North Korea's dictator in preventing people from accessing information.

"They don't allow (the media) to tell people what is happening in the country. Just like North Korea.

"We are going in that direction."

The retired statesman was referring to the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission's (MCMC) move to block access to The Malaysian Insider yesterday.

The news portal had reported a member of the anti-graft agency's advisory panel as saying there was evidence to charge the prime minister for alleged financial wrongdoing regarding SRC International Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir said Putrajaya wanted to control information so that people only read what the government wanted them to know.

"They want to stop all information except what they want to tell the people. And what they tell the people consists of a lot of lies."

The country's longest-serving prime minister, under whose rule laws requiring newspapers to have a renewable licence from the Home Ministry were enacted, said Putrajaya's moves against the media were also meant to scare the people.

"Already people are afraid that (if) they say something or do something against Datuk Seri Najib, you will be arrested, detained or charged in court," he said. – February 26, 2016.

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