

'Fed up' Gen Y will shun elections and Najib will win, warns Dr M
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He says the younger generation regards current leaders in both government and the opposition as keen on gaining money, practising abuse of power and maintaining their positions.

PETALING JAYA: PPBM chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned that Barisan Nasional (BN) under Prime Minister Najib Razak could win the coming general election (GE14) due to Malaysians becoming “cynical” towards politics, leading many to decide against casting their votes.

In an entry on his blog, he said some four million Generation Y Malaysians – referring to those born in the 1980s and 1990s – have become eligible to vote but mostly think it would not make a difference.

“Najib can win, not because the people support him. Najib can win because the people are fed up and cynical towards politics,” he said.

“Fed up! They will not vote. Not voting is just the same as voting for Najib.”

The former prime minister said those who are older still remember the contributions of the country’s pioneering leaders, but that the Gen Y citizens do not care for such old struggles.

He said they feel disillusioned as present leaders are also old and cannot understand the concerns of the youths.

“Some have reached 90 years of age,” said Mahathir, who is himself 91.

He said the Gen Y regard the politics of the current leaders, whether they are in government or the opposition, as the politics of finding money (“politik cari duit”), abuse of power and maintaining their positions of power.

“The difference is, the opposition parties are still scrambling about, pretending to be united while chasing positions and power. That is the opinion of the Gen Y,” he said.

Mahathir said while the older generation will vote for “old faces” and old causes, this will not be enough to bring down BN, which is chaired by Najib.

“This would mean that those who receive gratuity will win. It means that cash will continue to be king,” he added.

He said both the old and the young need to complement each other in GE14.

The older generation must understand the mind-set of the young, and the youngsters must consider the “obsolete minds” of the old people who are stuck in former struggles.

GE14 is due by the middle of next year. BN and its principal party Umno are set to face Pakatan Harapan, which consists of PPBM, DAP, PKR and Amanah.

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