

## **PM has better things to do, Umno leaders tell Mahathir**

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### **Only 'mental' people will attend former PM's 'Nothing to Hide' forum, says Sungai Besar Umno division chief.**

PETALING JAYA: Unlike Dr Mahathir Mohamad, whose only task is to take down the Barisan Nasional (BN) government, Prime Minister Najib Razak is responsible for the development of the country and the welfare of its people, says Sungai Besar Umno division chief Jamal Md Yunos.

Hence, he said there was no need for Najib to “waste his time” by attending Mahathir’s “Nothing to Hide” forum.

“I want to inform him that what’s more important to Najib is his focus on developing the country. His responsibility as the prime minister does not include entertaining irrelevant matters.

“Besides, he has already addressed the (United States) Department of Justice (DoJ) lawsuits and the RM2.6 billion issue.

“These people, no matter what the explanation given, no matter what evidence is put forward, they will not be satisfied as long as Najib is not taken down,” he told FMT.

He said if Najib was a man with Mahathir’s character, the Pakatan Harapan chairman would now be behind bars for attempting to topple a democratically elected government.

It was a clear breach of the law, he said.

“But because Najib is a gentle, kind, and well-mannered man, he just ignored Mahathir.”

According to Jamal, who recently announced his intention to contest for the post of Umno Youth chief, those who planned to attend the forum were “mental”.

“Their brain is unwell, for trying to change a good government to one which is uncertain in its capability.”

Umno supreme council member Ismail Sabri Yaakob echoed the sentiment, telling reporters at Mara’s open house this afternoon that Mahathir’s true intention was to slander Najib, not seek the truth.

“I’ve said from the beginning, don’t waste time debating them (the opposition).”

He said Najib and the government had their own ways to answer the allegations involving the country’s administration.

Ismail also said the opposition should have organised the forum to get Mahathir to explain all his administrative failures when he was the prime minister.

“More things were hidden during Mahathir’s time. For example, the losses of Proton and Perwaja, and the forex scandal.”

Mahathir yesterday invited Najib to the second “Nothing to Hide” forum, saying the two could have a discussion on how he enriched his children as well as how the prime minister had RM2.6 billion in his personal bank accounts.

In the first such forum, held in 2015, Najib initially agreed to make an appearance but withdrew after police advised him against it, citing security concerns.

Mahathir, who came to the forum unannounced, took to the stage to address the audience of about 2,000 people. He spoke for six minutes before he was forced to stop by police and escorted off-stage.

When asked if he would accept a representative of the government such as Umno minister Nazri Aziz instead of Najib himself, the 92-year-old said that would be a disappointment.

Speaking to FMT, Nazri said he himself was not interested in going unless Mahathir could get the police to allow a long-overdue debate between the two of them.

“I will go, I’m interested to go if he can get a permit from the police allowing us to have a debate.”

Mahathir and Nazri were scheduled to debate one another in Kuala Kangsar last March.

The event never took place as, according to the police, they had received reports from the public and residents in the vicinity who claimed to be worried about their safety.

Nazri, who is tourism and culture minister, said if the police decided to allow Mahathir’s “Nothing to Hide” forum to proceed, he would question why the same approval was denied for the debate he wanted to hold.

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