

Retire with dignity, Karpal tells Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Ride into the sunset with grace and dignity. This is the advice of DAP chairman Karpal Singh to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Karpal Singh said it did not bode well for the elder statesman to publicly voice his grouses against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Dr Mahathir must accept that his time was up when he passed the baton of leadership to Abdullah. There is no turning back," said Karpal Singh in a statement.

"During his tenure as PM, Dr Mahathir was known to attract controversy to the extent of hitting out at leaders of other countries. He should understand that he cannot do that now," he said.

He also said Dr Mahathir's choice of Abdullah over Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should have remained something close to his chest, particularly so when he himself was chosen by Tun Hussein Onn as Deputy Prime Minister over other capable leaders.

If Dr Mahathir had intended to be actively involved politics he should have remained in the government as a senior minister - as in the case of Lee Kuan Yew, who had vowed to remain in the Singapore government as long as he could, said Karpal Singh.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said the time had come for Abdullah to stand up to Dr Mahathir and show that he stands for political equality, socio-economic justice and an all-out campaign against corruption.