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Najib is his own man, not mine, says former PM

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SERI ISKANDAR (Lumut): Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad dismissed as nonsense talk of him being the *de facto* Prime Minister behind Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He denied that Najib was his man and that he could influence the deputy prime minister.

"That is nonsense. He is his own man. Not my man.

"When Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was appointed PM, I thought he would perhaps consult me on some issues, but as you can see he never asked me anything. In fact, he reversed all I did," he told reporters after delivering a public lecture on "National Identity and Power Sharing" at Universiti Teknologi Petronas here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a statement by Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who had brushed off talk that he (Dr Mahathir) would be the *de facto* prime minister if Najib rose to the position.

On the postponement of Umno's party polls to March next year, Dr Mahathir said it should

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TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

not have happened as it would not achieve anything.

Dr Mahathir said:

"For five years, he has been the prime minister but nothing has been achieved. The corridors remain corridors."