

# **DR MAHATHIR GOES AGAINST PRINCIPLE OF PARTY UNITY - POLITICAL ANALYSTS**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 29 (Bernama) -- The move by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to quit UMNO is seen as contradicting the principle of unity in UMNO which he himself fought for when he led the country for 22 years.

Political analysts were of the view that the action of the former prime minister was unwise and seen more of a personal matter of Dr Mahathir against the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"What Tun Dr Mahathir has done today is in conflict with what he had said when he was the UMNO president.

"I see Tun Mahathir's action today as getting too personal against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak," said Assoc Prof Dr Jeniri Amir, who is Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Social Science Faculty senior lecturer.

Dr Mahathir, 90, today announced he was once again resigning from UMNO.

Before this, Dr Mahathir left UMNO on May 19, 2008 after he reportedly lost confidence in the leadership of then prime minister and UMNO president, Datuk Seri (now Tun) Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Each leader has his own ways and principles and Dr Mahathir is seen as demanding the prime minister to follow how he led this country," he said.

Jeniri said while the nation was facing serious economic issues, the action of the former UMNO president was seen as only jeopardising the image of Malaysia.

"Now is the time for the country's leaders to be united in facing the economic challenges which to me is more important and not to continue politicking," he said.

Prof Dr Ahmad Fauzi Abd Hamid, a political science lecturer at Universiti Sains Malaysia was of the view that Mahathir's action was more personal in his effort to pressure the leadership of Najib.

"This is a political game, after he failed to pressure from inside the party, now he is trying to push from outside," he said.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia geopolitical analyst, Prof Dr Mohd Fuad Mat Jali believed the

action was more of a personal move which would not affect the solidarity of UMNO members.

"From the suspension of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as UMNO deputy president, we could see only a small section of UMNO members who do not support the party leadership," he said.