

Dr M not in favour of Najib-Anwar debate
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Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad says it is pointless to debate with PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim Anwar as he is a "chameleon" who changes his spots at will to suit his audience.

"There is nothing to debate with Anwar. We already know what his stance is. He is a chameleon, he is everything to everybody, he changes colour everytime.

"When he is with the Chinese, he condemns the New Economic Policy; when he is with the Indians, he is an Indian; when he is with the Malays, he gives talks about Islam," Mahathir said after a closed-door briefing with Perkasa leaders in Putrajaya this evening.

He was commenting on the growing calls for Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to face Anwar in a debate, following the Feb 18 debate between MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

The former premier was also less than enthusiastic about a similar debate between Chua and Lim on Malay issues.

"We can do it, but there will be little effect. I still think that we are not ready yet.

'Not the Malaysian way'

"The majority of the people tend to allow sentiments and feelings to influence them, rather than rational thinking. It will only make things worse," he said.

The debate between the MCA and DAP leaders last Saturday saw a highly charged atmosphere as the two slugged it out on national television.

On such debates becoming a norm, Mahathir said it was not the Malaysian way and that even such debates in America sometimes showed "how stupid" their leaders were.

Asked about speculation that a royal commission of inquiry (RCI) will be formed to address the Project IC scandal in Sabah, Mahathir said this was not necessary.

"I think it is a problem, but there is no need for an RCI. The government can collect its own statistics on this (and solve the problem on its own)," he said.

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