

Bow to Selangor royal decision, says Dr M
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Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants all quarters to bow to the decision made by the Selangor sultan regarding the menteri besar post to avoid a conflict.

According to a brief news report in Utusan Online, the former premier was commenting on the current imbroglio at the sidelines of a function in Putrajaya today.

Mahathir said if any party defied the sultan's choice, it was bound to ignite a protracted political conflict in Selangor.

Last week, the former premier said during his 22-year tenure, he never encountered obstacles with the palaces when he submitted a single name for the post of menteri besar for the respective states.

The single name has become the main bone of contention in Selangor, with PKR and DAP proposing only PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail for the post while the sultan requested for more names.

When PKR and DAP insisted on a single name citing convention, this incurred the wrath of the palace.

And now speculation is rife that PKR deputy president Azmin Ali would be appointed, sparking concern that the palace might be overstepping its role as a constitutional monarch.

Legal experts argued that Wan Azizah deserves to be appointed given that she has majority support with 30 out of 56 state assemblypersons endorsing her for MB.

Mahathir's royal history

Some might also find it odd that Mahathir has called on all to acquiesce to the palace's decision when one of the defining episodes during his rein was locking horns with the monarchs and curtailing their powers.

Even recently, the former premier flexed his muscles again at the rulers, this time over the controversial Johor Housing and Real Property Board Bill 2014.

Mahathir had warned that any drastic changes could exacerbate the people's ill-feelings towards the royals.

"There is already a feeling of disrespect for the royals. This may lead to other forms of

disrespect," he had said in his blog.

Mahathir also expressed concern that Johor Menteri Besar Khaled Nordin would not be able to advise the state sultan with regard to the housing bill.

He said while amendments are to be made, Khaled might, however, succumb to the Malay tradition which considers the sultan as the head of state.

"This is Malay custom. If the sultan says something, it must be followed. I am worried that it will not be the MB advising the sultan, but the sultan advising him," he had added.

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