

Kit Siang: Dr M should join 'Save M'sia' coalition

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By Kow Gah Chie

After decades of trading barbs and hurling allegations, Lim Kit Siang has now turned to former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his bid to rescue the nation.

Lim proposed that Mahathir and his two former deputies, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Musa Hitam, convene a "Save Malaysia" grand coalition to face BN in the next general elections.

The DAP parliamentary leader cautioned that the 1MDB imbroglio must not be allowed to destroy the country.

"This is the time for all political leaders, regardless of party, race, religion, age or gender, to set aside their differences and come together to draw up and implement a 'Save Malaysia' roadmap.

"DAP and all progressive political forces are prepared to respond to such a 'Save Malaysia' clarion call," Lim told a press conference at the party headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

As to who should convene the coalition, Lim said it could be done by the "three Tuns (Mahathir, Abdullah and Musa, photo), the progressive forces on both sides of the divide or former opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

"If the three Tuns can work together, then they would have the influence and weight to call for a meeting to embark on a new coalition," he said.

The Gelang Patah MP admitted that he lacks the influence to convene such a pact.

"If we want to do this, we must ensure it can be successful.

"If Mahathir wants to save the nation and not just wishes to save Umno, then there is a basis for (us to) work together," he said.

Have not approached Mahathir

However, Lim declined to elaborate on this, saying that they have not approached Mahathir and the other leaders.

"This is an idea for us to think about before we can follow up with action," he said when asked if they have taken the first step to approach the three Tuns.

On March 23, Lim mooted the a "Save Malaysia" coalition five days after PAS President Abdul Hadi Awang tabled a private member bill to allow Kelantan to implement hudud.

DAP is pushing hard to form a new coalition, excluding PAS, and has initiated talks with PKR and Gabungan Harapan Baru.

Today Lim also received two membership forms from Malay businesswomen Norazimah Nohamad Nor, 40 and self-employed Siti Sapura, 38 (photo).

Norazimah, who operates a business near Masjid India, said she got to know about DAP better after Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun assisted the hawkers to get license from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

She recalled an incident which occurred in 2000 when she was forced to hit a DBKL enforcement officer after the enforcement team allegedly assaulted the hawkers. She was sent to lock-up with three others.

"I joined the struggle as part of the Reformasi movement in 1998. I have been arrested and exploited.

"I tried to get closer to Pakatan Rakyat parties and I decided to join DAP to realise my aspiration 'for rakyat no boundaries', regardless of race, culture and religion," Norazimah said, adding that she have faith in DAP's struggle.

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