

## **Dr M calls Pandikar 'gov't goalkeeper' over Husni episode**

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Former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described Dewan Rakyat speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia as a "government goalkeeper".

He said this in response to Pandikar claim that former finance minister II Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah's speech in Parliament had breached Cabinet's confidentiality requirements.

Ahmad Husni had touched on the 1MDB controversy during his speech on Oct 25. Among others, he had asked if 1MDB had met its targets and questioned why the sale of the company's assets to a Chinese firm would only be paid out in 2020.

Mahathir did not specifically name Pandikar but instead described him as "*Pendekar*" (warrior).

"I see this '*pendekar*', he talks a lot. When people attack (the government), he deflects.

"He becomes a goalkeeper for the government so that the government does not need to try to stop the ball from entering their goal.

"He continues to block even though there is no basis," Mahathir told a press conference after the announcement of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia's (Bersatu) leadership line-up in Putrajaya today.

Pandikar had claimed that former ministers, including Muhyiddin Yassin and Mohd Shafie Apdal may have **breached** their oaths of secrecy when they spoke about 1MDB in Parliament.

However, Mahathir said government secrecy does not apply to wrongdoing.

"Crimes that happen in the government cannot be hidden. If it is hidden then it is a cover-up," he said.

### **Trump and Clinton both bad**

Mahathir also defended Husni, stating that whatever the former minister said in Parliament was already public knowledge.

"He also did not state anything (new). He only asked questions. Can't we even ask questions?"

Mahathir also responded to Perkasa chief Ibrahim Ali's move to distance himself from Bersatu.

"He is the leader of an NGO, he is not a party member. There are many Perkasa members

who have joined Bersatu.

"But we are unclear on his stance... The matter that he had often raised is that we should only fight for the Malays, but in this country we must also consider other races," he said.

On a separate matter, Mahathir described US presidential election candidate Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump as "equally bad".

"Of the bad people, who will you choose? I am much more familiar with Clinton than Trump.

"Trump is a wild card, we don't know what he is going to do.

"That is America, the country that rules the world (but) doesn't even know how to choose good leaders," he said.

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