

Mahathir will be overseas during Bersih, but pledges his support
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Former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad hinted that he may not participate in the Bersih 5 rally due to a previous engagement that may take him out of the country this Saturday.

However he pledged his full support, and that of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu), of which he is chairperson, to the electoral reform group, Bersih's cause.

“On Nov 19, according to plans that were made before this, I will be overseas on that day.

“But I want to express my support for the Bersih 5 rally,” he said when interviewed by online radio station *Radio Bangsar Utama* earlier tonight.

In the 36-minute recorded interview conducted by political activist Hishamuddin Rais at Yayasan Kepimpinan Perdana in Putrajaya recently, Mahathir however urged all to support the rally as it is for the good of the nation.

“All opposition parties, including Bersatu should join in the Bersih rally as it is to cleanse the elections, and if it is not clean it would mean nothing,” said the ex-PM.

During the interview, Mahathir repeated his warnings on the possibility of a government crackdown on Bersih should provocations by the red-shirts, which he believed were backed by the government, gave rise to major altercations.

On Saturday, Bersih will hold the fifth installment of its series of rallies to pressure the government into implementing electoral and institutional reforms.