

Dr M concedes Harapan parties may contest under own banners
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The component parties in Pakatan Harapan may have to contest under their own banners in the 14th general election instead of the Harapan banner, said the coalition chairperson Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This is due to the Registrar of Societies' (ROS) delay in responding to Harapan's application to register as an official organisation, he explained.

"We are in limbo because we do not know whether we will contest in GE14 as Harapan or as individual component parties.

"Certainly if we contest as individual component parties with our own symbols, the rakyat will be confused.

"That is why (Prime Minister) Najib Abdul Razak does not want to register Pakatan Harapan," Mahathir said.

He was speaking to a 1,500-strong crowd in the small town of Sungai Petai in Alor Gajah, Malacca during the Pakatan Harapan roadshow tonight.

Mahathir has accused the ROS of deliberately delaying the coalition's registration several times.

Harapan submitted its application in the middle of last year.

Meanwhile, GE14 is expected to take place before June this year.

Despite this, Mahathir said, the rakyat should know that the four component parties are part of Harapan, even if they cannot contest under the Harapan banner.

This is part of Najib's plan to confuse the rakyat, he reiterated.

"But I want to implore you, vote whatever symbol as long as it's not the balance or the moon," he said to thunderous applause from the crowd.

The BN symbol is the balance while the moon is the symbol of PAS, which has since become estranged from the other opposition parties.

Bersatu also **filed a suit** against ROS last Thursday, claiming that it had failed or neglected its responsibility.

There were also a host of smaller events in Malacca leading up to the roadshow in Alor Gajah tonight.

Mahathir earlier attended a Teh Tarik session in Krubong, PKR had a Chinese New Year open house in Machap while DAP also had a Chinese New Year open house.

The roadshow was also attended by PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Amanah president Mohamad Sabu, Bersatu president Muhyiddin Yassin and DAP organising secretary Anthony Loke.

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