

Dr M denies knowledge of attempts to entice BN away from govt

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Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad has denied any knowledge about attempts to entice BN away from the coalition government.

“I don’t know. I’m just an adviser to SG4 (Sdn Bhd). We talk mostly about development issues, not politics,” he said during a presser today.

SG4 is a company formed by the four states administered by Perikatan Nasional, aimed at boosting their economic development.

On Nov 24, BN chairperson Ahmad Zahid Hamidi alleged there were attempts to court his coalition out of the government and make him prime minister.

“Last week, some opposition MPs came and said they want to form a coalition government with BN. They want to be back in the government and sought four ministerships.

“They even suggested for a BN leader to become the new prime minister but I

shot it down,” Berita Harian reported him as saying during the Federal Territories BN Convention.

A day later, Perikatan Nasional supreme council member Ronald Kiandee dismissed Zahid’s claims.

“As far as I know, there has not been any decision by both sides (PN and BN) to negotiate a new political alignment.

“If there are individuals, including MPs, who are involved in such discussions, it is not carried out with the party’s mandate,” Free Malaysia Today reported him as saying.

‘What unity govt?’

Asked to comment on the “D” grade given by Bersih over the coalition government’s performance, Mahathir took a sarcastic swipe at the federal administration.

“I didn’t know there was a unity government. All I see now is everything is split, nothing about unity,” the former Langkawi MP added.

On Nov 20, Bersih gave the Anwar Ibrahim-led federal administration a “D” grade

in its mid-term evaluation.

The poor performance was attributed to the coalition government's failure to carry out significant institutional reforms.

Bersih also ranked Anwar behind its predecessors Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Mahathir in fulfilling their reform promises.

In response, Anwar said the government would do better in time.

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