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PAGE 8 | NEW STRAITS TIMES

PRIME NEWS

Dr M mocks Pas' change of tack on non-Muslim veeps

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WHAT'S NEW?: 'Good move' since party once labelled Umno as infidels, he says

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FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad described Pas's willingness to accept non-Muslims into high ranking positions in the party as "good".

This, Dr Mahathir, said was so as the opposition party had previously labelled Umno as *kafir* (infidels) for working with non-Muslim-based component parties.

Current Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had in 1981 called Umno members and supporters in a ceramah "infidels" and had also once opposed any cooperation with non-Muslims.

Dr Mahathir said Pas had since changed its stance, suggesting that non-Muslims could be party leaders, although he questioned how far they were willing to go.

"Lim Kit Siang can be Pas president. What's wrong with it?"

"He is a Malaysian, a patriot. As long as he promises to prioritise Islam and allocate a budget for mosques," joked Dr Mahathir, alluding to the DAP adviser, drawing guffaws from members of the Malaysian Council of Former Elected Representatives (Mubarak) who had met him earlier yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said this to reporters



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the press conference after meeting with Council of Former Elected Representatives (Mubarak) at the Perdana Leadership Foundation in Putrajaya yesterday. He is flanked by Mubarak president Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Rahman and deputy president Tan Sri Ahmad Nordin Md Amin (right). Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

when asked on a statement by Pas supreme council member and Kuala Selangor member of parliament Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, who said that Pas was willing to accept non-Muslims into positions as high as vice-president.

Dr Mahathir also lauded Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib

Razak for granting the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner full access to statutory declarations made by ministers, deputy ministers, chief ministers and menteri besar on their assets.

In January, Dr Mahathir, along

with several ministers, backed the recommendation by the MACC advisory board which proposed that ministers and deputy ministers, as well as their immediate family members, make statutory declarations of their assets and for the copies to be kept by the commission.