

Newspaper	MALAYSIAKINI
Date	27 SEPTEMBER 2016

Anwar is Harapan's pick for PM, Pua tells Dr M

Malaysiakini – 27 Sept 2016

Pakatan Harapan's potential candidate for prime minister remains Anwar Ibrahim, said DAP publicity chief Tony Pua said today.

This comes after Harapan's new ally Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) adviser Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Bersatu pro-tem president Muhyiddin Yassin is the top pick for PM if the opposition wins the next general election.

"As it stands, Pakatan Harapan's position is, and remains, Anwar Ibrahim (for prime minister)," Pua told *Malaysiakini*.

Asked if this is tenable, given that Anwar is serving a five-year jail sentence, he said: "We'll worry about that later." Anwar was sent to jail for sodomising his aide in February 2015.

The PKR de facto chief continues to deny the charge, and claims political conspiracy.

Mahathir, in a lecture in London last week, said Muhyiddin is the **top choice**, but it would depend on whether Muhyiddin is elected Bersatu president and if "the coalition" agrees.

The former PM also conceded that there is not much discussion now on the coalition's prime minister candidate as it could cause upset in the group.

He added that a Bersatu prime minister will also be compelled to consult with the party's chairperson and committee on policy matters, so that they would not make unilateral decisions. Mahathir said this is because cabinet members may feel obliged not to oppose the PM in meetings, as the PM appoints them to the post.

Muhyiddin was Umno deputy president before he was sacked from the party this year for his vocal criticism of IMDB and party president Najib Abdul Razak, who is also the prime minister.

Muhyiddin subsequently formed Bersatu with Mahathir, Mahathir's son and former Kedah menteri besar Mukhriz Mahathir, and other former Umno members.

Former Umno vice-president Shafie Apdal, who was sacked from the cabinet alongside Muhyiddin, has formed another Sabah-based party, which will work with Pakatan Harapan to help unseat BN.

Source: www.malaysiakini.com