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'Dr M met Anwar over new party'

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DAP SUPPORT

SOUGHT: He wants Parti Pribumi to be part of coalition, says Raja Petra

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad met Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Sept 5 as a means to get Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia into Pakatan Harapan, said political commentator Raja Petra Kamarudin.

In a post on his blog, malaysia-today.net, Raja Petra said this was at odds with the stand of Lim Kit Siang, who did not want Parti Pribumi in the DAP-led Pakatan Harapan.

"You need DAP's agreement for Parti Pribumi to be allowed into Pakatan Harapan. That was why Dr Mahathir had to run to Anwar to seek his help in speaking to Kit Siang," he wrote in the post "Why Mahathir paid homage to Anwar on

5th September" on Tuesday.

Raja Petra said to get DAP's support, Dr Mahathir had promised Kit Siang two things — to resolve Lim Guan Eng's problem with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and resolve DAP's problem with the Registry of Societies (RoS).

"Unfortunately, Dr Mahathir could not deliver both, and with (former MACC chief commissioner) Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed's early retirement, that has become even more difficult to deliver. On top of that, Dr Mahathir failed to deliver Malay votes in the two by-elections in Sungai Besar, Selangor, and Kuala Kangsar, Perak, as Pakatan Harapan thought he would."

Raja Petra claimed that Dr Mahathir had set aside RM200 million to help Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali topple Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and take over PKR's leadership.

Azmin, however, got cold feet after Anwar wrote a letter from prison, warning against collaborating "with a serpent".

"That letter was for Azmin and was about his alliance with Dr Mahathir to take control of PKR. That was yet another blow for Dr Ma-



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim



Lim Kit Siang



Raja Petra Kamarudin

hathir."

Raja Petra said Dr Mahathir realigned nothing was going his way and decided to form a new party to threaten Umno and Barisan Nasional, hoping that Umno members would force Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to leave.

He said it was crucial for Dr Mahathir that people believed Parti Pribumi was going to join and lead Pakatan Harapan, which would be the only way to frighten Najib, Umno and BN.

"If Parti Pribumi was going to be a lone wolf, then it would be no threat. It will get wiped out and many of its

candidates will lose their deposits."

Dr Mahathir, he said, could not afford to have Pakatan Harapan blocking Parti Pribumi from joining the coalition.

"That would be a death blow and the final nail in Dr Mahathir's coffin, and that was why Dr Mahathir went to see Anwar in court on Sept 5.

"That may have been the most degrading thing Dr Mahathir has ever done in his life, but it would be even worse if Parti Pribumi applied to join Pakatan Harapan and they said "no".

"Now, the new party has been formed and it cannot take off properly. This is made worse because Kit

Siang does not want it in Pakatan Harapan or as the leader of Pakatan Harapan.

"Parti Pribumi has proven to be the greatest misstep ever and an epic disaster. Where does Dr Mahathir go from here after running to Anwar in the hope that the latter would embrace his new party?"

Raja Petra said Parti Pribumi was supposed to be the weapon to send Najib, Umno and BN into shock. However, Dr Mahathir was the one panicking.

Dr Mahathir, he said, had a party without members and leaders, and that was not part of any coalition.