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DAP: Anwar is Opposition's choice for PM

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PETALING JAYA: A day after Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin would be the prime minister if the Opposition takes over the Government, several Opposition leaders have insisted it will be Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The leaders, including DAP senior officers, insist that the jailed PKR adviser should take over as prime minister if the Opposition comes to power after the next general election.

DAP acting national chairman Tan Kok Wai said there should not be any further talk on who is to become the prime minister as it was previously decided by the Opposition pact that Anwar would assume the post if they won.

"The decision remains that Anwar will become prime minister unless Pakatan

Harapan decides otherwise in the future," he told *The Star* yesterday.

In a speech to students in London last week, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman Dr Mahathir said party president Muhyiddin would be the prime minister if the Opposition won the next general election.

He acknowledged that such a decision was conditional upon Muhyiddin being chosen by his own party for the post with Pakatan Harapan also endorsing his appointment as prime minister.

However, Dr Mahathir said that there would not be a decision on the matter now as "some people will be disappointed and that will split the party".

PKR vice-president Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin said that although Dr Mahathir had the right to air his personal views on the matter, he should not have caused disquiet among the people.

"Dr Mahathir knows the people's choice is always Anwar, as in the past election, 52% of

the popular votes choose him to lead the pact," he said.

He added that any decision on who was to lead the country among the Opposition must be a consensus decision of Pakatan's presidential council.

Another PKR vice-president, Tian Chua, however believed that the party is open to the idea of the next prime minister.

"PKR has never named a prime minister so we are open to it. The key issue here is that Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak must go.

"We are open to whoever will replace him," said Tian Chua.

Parti Amanah Negara's communication director Khalid Samad said no one in the Opposition was empowered to make a unilateral decision on who would be the prime minister.

"We have to win first before we can decide. It is natural for a party to want its leader to assume the post but any decision must be by way of consensus," he added.

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