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PKR keen to work with Pribumi, says Wan Azizah

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PETALING JAYA: PKR remains keen on establishing political ties with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's new party Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia. However, the party regrets Pribumi's policy of discriminating its membership based on race.

PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ibrahim said all opposition parties needed to unite under one banner to defeat Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

"We welcome (any) cooperation with Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the new party. We are praying for Dr Mahathir's health so that we can continue to work together.

"PKR is always open (to the idea of working with Parti Pribumi)," Dr Wan Azizah said during a press conference at PKR's headquarters here yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is former deputy prime minister and Umno deputy president, has been designated the party's pro-tem committee president while Dr Mahathir is named party chairman.

Dr Mahathir, who served as prime minister and Umno president from 1981 to 2003, was admitted to the National Heart Institute for a chest infection.

Dr Wan Azizah said the question

of Parti Pribumi's restricted membership policy for non-Bumiputeras should be directed to its leadership.

"That is a question that should be posed to them. You should have equal status for everyone (but) that is their policy."

She said her husband, PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, was criticised in the past for speaking against the New Economic Policy and calling for equal opportunities.

"Malaysians want everyone to be treated equally before the law," she said.

It was reported that Muhyiddin had submitted

the application for registration of Dr Mahathir's new political party to the Registrar of Societies.

He was quoted as saying that the party's membership would be open to Malays as well as Bumiputeras in Sabah and Sarawak.

However, he said associate membership would be open to non-Bumiputeras who would not be allowed to vote or contest party polls.

DAP's Youth wing had slammed the membership restriction, saying it would not cooperate with parties with "racist" policies.

A "grand opposition coalition", consisting of Parti Pribumi and Pakatan Harapan, is expected to contest in the 14th General Election.



Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ibrahim