

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	23 JUNE 2016

Contest general election first, Wan Azizah tells Dr M

NST- 23/6/2016

GEORGE TOWN: Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail has told Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to contest the general election following a challenge to him to take charge of the opposition.

"Contest the general election first. I, too, had contested (and won) in the general election," she said in response to Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak's dare to the former prime minister to lead the opposition pact.

When pressed further if she was asking Dr Mahathir to contest the next general election, Dr Wan Az-

izah, who is PKR president and opposition leader, played coy and refused to clarify her comment.

"It is up to you to speculate on the matter. It is the fasting month. There is no need to comment," she said after visiting Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah at Penang Hospital here.

Salleh had dared Dr Mahathir to oppose Barisan Nasional openly as an opposition politician, rather than "hiding" behind a purportedly



**Datuk Seri Dr
Wan Azizah
Wan Ismail**

apolitical movement.

Salleh said in a blog post it was "morally right" for Dr Mahathir to officially take the lead in the opposition, since he was already playing a "de facto" role.

Dr Mahathir had helped campaign for the opposition, particularly Parti Amanah Negara candidates, in the recent by-elections in Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Be-

sar, which BN won with bigger majorities.