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'Dr M, Anwar will do anything for political mileage'

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IPOH: The meeting between former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim recently has proven that the two former rivals are willing to do anything in their political pursuit.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said as individuals, Dr Mahathir and Anwar did not have any political clout and needed each other to be formidable.

"This meeting is nothing unusual. Anything can happen in politics," he said.

Earlier this week, Dr Mahathir met Anwar for the first time in 18 years at the Kuala Lumpur High Court where it was set to hear Anwar's application to strike down the National Security Council (NSC) Act 2015.

"Today they do this (meeting each other) and tomorrow they are likely to take different actions. But their goal will remain the same, which is for political mileage," Zambry said after chairing the state executive council meeting here yesterday.

He said this when asked to comment on the unprecedented meeting between Dr Mahathir and Anwar on Monday.

Zambry, who is also Perak Barisan Nasional chairman, advised party members to be prepared for new challenges as the opposition

would always find ways to try and get power.

In **Putrajaya**, Dr Mahathir has been urged to come clean about his agenda following what appears to be efforts to cosy up to jailed former opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Umno Youth vice-chief Khairul Azwan Harun said Dr Mahathir should clarify his intentions.

"I see it (the meeting) as a cheap and dirty political plot. He supposedly went to court to declare his support for Anwar in his fight against the NSC Act. But what is Dr Mahathir's stand on Anwar? Does this mean that he has accepted Anwar as a political partner? He needs to come clean (about this)."

Azwan said Dr Mahathir was desperate to gain support and would do anything for it.

"We are not easily fooled by these tricks."

He said there should not be any issue pertaining to the setting up of NSC as it had gone through the democratic process.

"It is very disappointing to see Dr Mahathir coming up with this agenda to fan the flame on the issue. The main question now is what he actually wants."

In **Shah Alam**, PKR deputy president Datuk Seri Azmin Ali reiterated that Dr Mahathir's presence at the courthouse was to show sup-

port for Anwar's court case.

"He is interested on the particular case and even blogged about it. He was happy that Anwar took the effort (to strike down the NSC Act) and he wanted to support the initiative."

Azmin said the private meeting between Dr Mahathir and Anwar was to discuss the preparation of the case, particularly in filing the affidavit and other procedures that had to be followed.

"(PKR president) Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and I were present. We discussed many things, so we could move forward from there."

Asked if Anwar was willing to forgive and forget, Azmin said: "He (Anwar) had said many times in the past that he wanted to move forward in the interest of Malaysians and the country."

Azmin said it was a "collective effort" to bring the two together, and described the meeting as a step forward to unite Malaysians and strengthen the opposition.

He was speaking after delivering his keynote closing address at the Copenhagen Solutions for Sustainable Cities Seminar.

Present was Danish Ambassador to Malaysia Nicolai Ruge.