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'Why can't I work with Anwar?'

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COALITION WAY:
Opposition parties
must unite to beat
BN, says Dr M

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad is willing to work with anybody to topple Barisan Nasional, including long-time nemesis Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The former prime minister said this was to strengthen the opposition camp, which he admitted was too unstable to win against BN in the next general election.

"If I can work with (DAP adviser) Lim Kit Siang, why can't I work with Anwar?" he said after receiving Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia's (PPBM) certificate of approval from the Registry of Societies (RoS) yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is PPBM chairman, and party president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin accepted the certificate from RoS.

Muhyiddin had filed an application to register the new party on Aug 5.

Asked whether PPBM would join

Pakatan Harapan, Dr Mahathir said opposition parties, including Pas, must work together if they wanted to win in the election and beat BN.

However, he said whether PKR would join forces with PPBM was not discussed during his meeting with Anwar in court on Monday.

"They (all the opposition parties) should consider forming a coalition. If they fight by themselves (as individual parties), they will lose.

"This is because when they contest as a single party in a three-cornered fight, they are actually fighting for BN."

Dr Mahathir said PPBM would not hold an annual general meeting due to time constraints as the 2016 fiscal year was coming to an end.

As such, the party will hold elections only next year.

Muhyiddin said party pro tem committee members would officially assume their roles, until elections could be held.

On membership, he said forms would be distributed starting from Wednesday, after changes were made to the party logo.

Muhyiddin thanked RoS and Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi for approving the party within 30 days, as promised.

He said they were anticipating many people joining the party, in-



(From left) Former deputy prime minister **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** and former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** being interviewed in **Putrajaya** yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

cluding some who would jump from other political parties and those without any affiliation.

"Membership campaigns will be carried out nationwide, with committees heading it at state and parliamentary levels."

He said those who intended to join the party could apply online once the party finalised its official bank account by the third week of

this month.

Muhyiddin said the party had submitted a letter to RoS explaining the responsibilities of the chairman and president.

"RoS was satisfied with the explanation today (yesterday). The positions are put in place to allow checks and balances while ensuring transparency and sincerity," he said, adding that the party did not want

any abuse of power to take place.

He also said they were unhappy about not being able to use "Bersatu" as an acronym, but would comply with RoS' request.

Zahid had announced two days ago that PPBM had been approved but would not be allowed to use the acronym Bersatu as there were several parties with Bersatu in their names.