

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	13 SEPTEMBER 2016

## Anwar and Dr M had a handshake of convenience, says Liow

NST-13/9/2016

**PONTIAN:** The cooperation between former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the opposition was forged to fulfil their personal agendas.

MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the recent meeting between Dr Mahathir and his long-time nemesis Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim proved that theirs was an alliance of convenience.

"If (PKR deputy president) Datuk Seri Azmin Ali said Tun Dr Mahathir and Anwar made the handshake of the century, I look at it differently.

"I see it as a handshake of convenience. It was a handshake between two persons with their own personal agendas to wrest power in this country. The people will see right through this," said Liow after opening the Pontian and Tanjung Piai MCA divisions' annual delegates' meeting here yesterday.

Liow, who is transport minister, said the cooperation between Dr Mahathir and Anwar did not have the people's interest at heart because it was about promoting their personal goals that would not benefit the country.

He said Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM), whose chairman was Dr Mahathir, was part of an agenda to cause disunity within society.

He said Dr Mahathir's willingness to work with the opposition showed



MCA president **Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai** with attendees at the **Pontian and Tanjung Piai MCA divisions' delegates' meeting** in Pontian yesterday. Pic by **Zain Ahmed**

that the former prime minister intended to cause a split in society, and this was against the Barisan Nasional's agenda to uphold unity and a steady pace of development.

"We (BN) are talking about the future and development, but people like Anwar and Dr Mahathir are talking about ways to split the people.

They will drag the people down with them to fulfil their personal glory."

Dr Mahathir had indicated last Friday that he was willing to work with anyone, including his enemies and opposition leaders, to topple BN.

His statement came after his meeting with Anwar at the Kuala Lumpur High Court on Sept 5, where the two

rivals were engaged in a handshake that was widely publicised.

In **Shah Alam**, Azmin said PKR would have to forge ties with PPBM, but it would first seek Anwar's opinion.

"Yes, of course we have to work together. We will discuss with Datuk Seri Anwar," Azmin said when asked if PPBM needed to get Anwar's

blessing for the cooperation.

Asked if he felt Anwar would be in favour of the cooperation, Azmin briefly said: "We will discuss."

Azmin, who is Selangor menteri besar, was attending Hari Raya Aidiladha prayers at the Tengku Ampuan Jemaah Mosque in Bukit Jelutong.