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'ARROGANT POLITICIAN'

Stop acting like you're opposition supremo, Pas tells Dr M

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been blasted by Pas leaders as an "arrogant politician" and was told to stop acting like he was the opposition supremo.

They also rebuked Dr Mahathir for issuing an "ultimatum" to the Islamic party, which was given only one month by the former prime minister to decide whether to join the opposition pact.

Pas election director Datuk Mustafa Ali said Dr Mahathir was wrong to think that he could direct Pas at his whim and fancy.

"Dr Mahathir should not be acting as if he is the opposition leader. Furthermore, no other party can tell Pas what to do," Mustafa said yesterday.

Pas Ulama chief Datuk Mahfodz Mohamed described Dr Mahathir as an "immature" person who would get impatient.

"In Islam, being hasty or impatient is the trait of the devil. That is why he

is immature and always making about-turns.

"One moment, he wants to cooperate with us, the next, he attacks us," Mahfodz told the *New Sunday Times* yesterday.

He said Dr Mahathir's behaviour was the reason cooperation talks between Pas and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM), of which the latter chairs, had dragged on without any significant development.

"Dr Mahathir was the prime minister for 22 years. We had enough of his mistakes. It is difficult for us to look at him as the opposition leader."

Pas Ulama information chief Datuk Dr Mohd Khairuddin Aman Razali said Dr Mahathir was a grandiose person too used to wielding power.

"He still thinks he is in power, just like when he was leading the government. It is not Pas that is des-



Datuk Mustafa Ali (left) and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

perate to work with PPBM. It is the other way around.

"We have been firm against Dr Mahathir due to his arrogance and constant attacks on Pas."

He said Dr Mahathir had not been providing a conducive platform for Pas and PPBM to cooperate.

"It is up to the Pas (leadership) to

make decisions for itself."

In **Subang Jaya**, PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail also took a swipe at Dr Mahathir.

"He came to see (Datuk Seri) Anwar (Ibrahim). I think if he is so good at uniting (the opposition), he doesn't need to come.

"But he came. There is more than meets the eye," she said.

She was responding to a question whether Dr Mahathir had assumed the role of Pakatan Harapan de facto leader.

Earlier in **Alor Star**, Dr Mahathir said Pakatan Harapan and PPBM could not wait any longer for the formation of a larger opposition pact. "We cannot wait any longer. We need to form the pact as early as possible.

"If Pas wants to join the pact, we need to make sure that their participation will not jeopardise our

chances of winning," he said after a discourse on PPBM-DAP's "New political dimension and the future of Malays' power in politics" here yesterday.

He said the issue of Pas's participation in the pact was also discussed during his meeting with Anwar on Friday.

He claimed that Anwar was surprised with Pas's insistence on contesting the general election separately from Pakatan Harapan.

Dr Mahathir also claimed that attempts by PPBM president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to meet Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang to discuss a possible political cooperation were futile.

When asked if he and Anwar had decided on who would lead Pakatan Harapan's campaign in the general election, Dr Mahathir said it was still early to make a decision. **Additional reporting by Embun Majid**