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OPPOSITION COALITION

DR M: I WON'T BEG PAS TO JOIN PACT

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He says PPBM has other things to do than wait for the party to respond

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PARTI Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has made it clear that he will not grovel and beg Pas to join a coalition.

He said PPBM would not budge from its one-month ultimatum to the Islamic party to join an electoral pact.

"We give them time because we have been waiting for so long. Previously, there was no time limit for them.

"So that's why we have to give them a one-month ultimatum as we have a lot of things to do.

"We have tried to resolve the deadlock. We have been patient with Pas for a long time. We have done everything possible. What else can we do? I don't want to crawl and kiss the feet of the Pas leaders," he said after presenting appointment letters to 120 PPBM division leaders.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

PPBM had given the Pas leadership a month from Feb 11 to decide whether they wanted to be part of Pakatan Harapan.

Dr Mahathir said any delay would make it difficult for PPBM to carry out its future plans for the coalition.

"If Pas does not join any political coalition, this will lead to a three-cornered fight, which will allow BN or Umno to win in the general election. Pas will become a loser. Basically, you are supporting Umno.

"If they want to be effective in politics and win the majority, then they have to join a coalition like Umno.

"If they refuse, it cannot do anything for its members and the country. It is up to Pas.

"They have never succeeded at the federal level, even winning a quarter of the parliamentary seats."

On Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's statement that his party would not cooperate with PPBM due to its alliance with DAP, Dr Mahathir said PPBM would not exclude DAP.

"We cannot eliminate DAP. We still have to work with DAP just as much as BN needs to work with MCA. This is a multiracial country.

"We will continue working with DAP because the party holds 38 seats, while Pas has fewer than 20," he said.

Present was PPBM president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.