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FIRST CERAMAH AS PPBM CHAIRMAN

DR M SAYS KIT SIANG CAN NEVER BE PM

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Former PM says DAP is too small and that only Malay support can make Kit Siang PM

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DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang can never be prime minister as his party is too small, said ally and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said the only way Kit Siang could become prime minister was with the help of Malays.

Speaking in Penang during his first ceramah as PPBM chairman on Saturday night, Dr Mahathir sought to allay fears that Kit Siang could become prime minister should the opposition win the next general election.

"DAP is too small. Lim (Kit Siang) cannot become prime minister unless Malays make him one," he said.

The ceramah, which began an hour later than scheduled, was attended by about 1,000 people.

The evening was marked by the absence of Kit Siang's son, Penang Chief Minister and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, who was initially expected to attend the event.

Dr Mahathir, throughout his speech, was seen making attempts to raise the spirits of those in attendance.

He also took potshots at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, whom he accused of rigging the election result in Pekan in the 1999 general election.

Dr Mahathir claimed that the people were afraid of speaking out against Najib for fear of being apprehended by the police.

"In Malaysia today, if we speak a little, we will be called in by the police, whereas in my time, the opposition could say anything.

"The opposition called me *Maha Firaun* (Great Pharaoh) and *Maha Zalim* (most cruel). My name is Mahathir, not *Maha Firaun*.

"But it's okay if they want to call me names. That is normal in politics," he said.

Present were PPBM supreme council member Marzuki Yahaya, state PKR chief Datuk Mansor Othman and state DAP chairman Chow Kon Yeow.

The event ended at 10.30pm, immediately after Dr Mahathir concluded his speech.

Chow declined to comment on Dr Mahathir's claims that DAP was too small for Kit Siang to become prime minister.

Attempts to reach Guan Eng and Kit Siang for comments were futile.

Meanwhile, former DAP member Shamsheer Singh Thind said it was cowardly of Dr Mahathir to claim that the opposition could say any-

thing during his tenure as prime minister.

Shamsheer cited Op Lalang in 1987, which he called the most "infamous violation of human rights" that occurred during Dr Mahathir's administration.

"I was asked at the Penang DAP convention last year that if Kit Siang and Guan Eng were able to forgive Dr Mahathir for the sake of saving Malaysia, why can't I?"

"Whether Dr Mahathir deserves to be forgiven or not is secondary.

"My point is that Dr Mahathir did not even acknowledge that he had done anything wrong in the past, let alone offer an apology.

"Kit Siang should have the guts to at least tell Dr Mahathir that what he did in the past was wrong.

"Otherwise, I think he should consider committing (political) *hara-kiri*," he said.

Shamsheer cited Kit Siang's statement in 2014, in which he called

on Dr Mahathir to apologise to the 108 individuals detained during Op Lalang.

In a blog posted on Feb 16, 2014, Kit Siang said, "(Dr) Mahathir can tell lies without batting an eyelid about the history of his premiership but he cannot change history at his whims and fancies.

"It is indisputable that (Dr) Mahathir was the home minister during Op Lalang in 1987."



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Lim Kit Siang