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ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MEDIA

'MAKE A PUBLIC APOLOGY'

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Apologise to news outlets over claims of fake news, says ex-DAP vice-chairman

PETALING JAYA

DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang should make a public apology for accusing news outlets of reporting fake news and making up stories about his "secret agreement" to become deputy prime minister (DPM) if the opposition comes to power, said former DAP vice-chairman Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim.

Tunku Aziz said thanks to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's "confession", Lim had been "absolved of the obligation" to make a statutory declaration (SD) to disprove his statement that Lim would be named DPM.

Tunku Aziz had reportedly claimed of a secret pact between Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) and DAP, which will see Dr Mahathir's son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, become prime minister and Lim named as deputy.

Dr Mahathir, meanwhile, was reported as saying that DAP had requested a second deputy prime minister position be created for the party. He later claimed his words were twisted by the media.

"Dr Mahathir has admitted indirectly that Lim would become DPM and finance minister should Pakatan Harapan win.

"He confirmed what I have said all along. That explains why Lim refuses to sue me. Instead, he chose the coward's way and heaps abuse against my integrity.

"Lim should make a public apology to *Utusan*, *New Straits Times* and the mysterious man he codenamed Joseph Goebbels whom he had accused of purveying fake news and

making up stories about his secret agreement with Dr Mahathir," he said here yesterday.

He said Dr Mahathir's confession had "reinforced" what Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said in Baling recently, that in the event of Pakatan Harapan winning the next election, Lim and DAP would be in the driving seat of the government.

He said only Mukhriz would now have to make a SD, stating he had no ambition to be prime minister.

"His father, Dr Mahathir, might yet spring a surprise by executing another smart-ish U-turn to save his son.

"There is no accounting for Dr Mahathir's deft application of his selective memory, at which he is a champion of sorts," he said, adding that the only predictable thing about Dr Mahathir was his U-turns.

He thanked Dr Mahathir for "spilling DAP's red beans", which the former described as an "act of kindness" to him, but a "total disaster" for Lim and Guan Eng.

He claimed that Dr Mahathir "thrived on crisis" and that he would invent one if there was none.

"For example, the Malaysia Development Bhd is no longer an issue, but to Dr Mahathir, it remains a factor in his campaign to bring down the prime minister and the government... so it could be anything.

"He will create a situation and keep going for as long as he can."

In **George Town**, Lim said neither he nor the party had asked for the DPM post.

Lim yesterday said there had been reports, baseless or otherwise, about himself in the last few days.

"I am happy that I have suddenly



(From left) Tunku Abdul Aziz Ibrahim, Lim Kit Siang and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

become very popular in the press," he said after a gathering with residents of Kampung Tok Suboh.

"I have said clearly (before) that I, and we (DAP), had never asked for the DPM's post. There are many lies and untruths," he said, adding that it was important to note that even the prime minister was involved in these lies and untruths.

In **Alor Star**, Mukhriz said issues concerning a non-Malay from DAP being appointed as DPM, if the opposition assumed power, should not arise as it was unlikely to take place.

He also dismissed as rumours talk that his father had proposed to appoint him as prime minister, and Lim the deputy, should the opposition win the next general election.

"There has been no discussion between the top leadership of PPBM and DAP on the matter (on DAP asking to be made DPM). It was never even raised in Pakatan Harapan."

In **Kemabong**, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said yesterday the revelation by Dr Mahathir that DAP wanted the post of deputy prime minister (DPM) should the opposition win the 14th General Election was significant to the political

landscape as it would determine the future of the country.

This was because the electorate now has a "political choice" in the next general election, he said.

"If they want Lim Kit Siang to be DPM and finance minister, then they can choose 'DAP-led Pakatan' in the next election. In fact, Dr Mahathir made a significant revelation as far as politics is concerned," he said after launching the Connecting The Unconnected programme and Dashboard Community at Sri Ontoros Community Hall.

In **Shah Alam**, PKR deputy president Datuk Seri Azmin Ali said he was in the dark over any discussions between Dr Mahathir and DAP over the DPM post, saying he did not have details on the purported discussion.

"I am not privy to the discussions between Dr Mahathir and DAP," he said, after attending a convocation ceremony at Dewan Jubli Perak Sultan Abdul Aziz here yesterday.

Azmin said the question of who would be the prime minister and DPM when the opposition assumed power would be discussed only when the time came, and it would be subjected to discussions between political parties within and out of Pakatan Harapan.