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NOT A 'TOP DOG'

'Dr M is DAP's puppet in Pakatan Harapan'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not a "top dog" in Pakatan Harapan, but merely DAP's puppet.

Press secretary to the prime minister, Datuk Seri Tengku Sariffuddin Tengku Ahmad, said regardless of the sentiment played by Dr Mahathir, DAP held the lion's share of the opposition seats compared with the fledgling Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM).

Dr Mahathir recently said he was a "top dog" in Pakatan Harapan after he was appointed as its chairman.

"During Dr Mahathir's 22 years as prime minister, he had never held open townhall debates with his enemies. Perhaps because he was a dictator, as he himself has confessed.

"Dr Mahathir now claims that as opposition chairman, he is their top dog and prime minister-equivalent.

"But, he is either delusional and divorced from reality or deliberately deceiving the people, because the real dictator of the opposition is (DAP adviser) Lim Kit Siang — who is kept invisible on

their leadership chart.

"Dr Mahathir's party has just one parliamentary seat compared with DAP's 38, the vast majority of opposition seats. So in reality, Kit Siang is the master, and Dr Mahathir the puppet,"

Tengku Sariffudin said yesterday.

He said the three Pakatan Harapan leaders — de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and Dr Mahathir — were simply positioned in the top rung to hide DAP's control of the pact.

"All the publicly listed top leaders of the

opposition are Malay, camouflaging DAP's real control," Tengku Sariffudin said.

Meanwhile, protests against Dr Mahathir's leadership in Pakatan Harapan worsened, prompting splits in the opposition camp, particularly those involved in the Otai Reformis movement.

The pro-opposition activists' club, formed by a few elected representatives and Anwar's supporters, will meet on Sunday to discuss whether to support Dr Mahathir.

Most members believe Dr Ma-

hathir to be an untrustworthy leader for landing Anwar behind bars almost 20 years ago.

"Yes, it (the situation) is not easy (to resolve). There is a spectrum of opinions on the matter, and very vocal members are against Dr Mahathir's involvement in Pakatan Harapan.

"They are very emotional and affected by what happened to Anwar. They are still angry with Dr Mahathir," Otai Reformis chairman Saari Sungib said yesterday.

He said the former prime minister was first openly rebuked by Otai Reformis members following his surprise attendance at the movement's convention in February, revealing that the protests against Dr Mahathir had yet to abate.

The jeers and boos lobbed towards Dr Mahathir at the convention included demands for a public apology over the alleged "political prosecution" against Anwar.

"There were about 1,100 people who were there (at the convention). Otai Reformis members who are against Dr Mahathir demanded from him an apology."

However, Saari declined to state his stand on the controversy, but said he would not deny members' rights to speak against Dr Mahathir.



Datuk Seri Tengku Sariffuddin Tengku Ahmad