

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	31/07/2017B

ARCH-ENEMIES NO MORE

## Kit Siang praised for successfully 'taming' Dr M

NST- 31/7/2017 Pg. 6

**KUALA LUMPUR:** DAP has managed to use Malay leaders as tools to weaken the Malay political power, by having a hold over former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Awang Selamat, a columnist in Malay daily *Mingguan Malaysia*, said he congratulated DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang for successfully "taming" Dr Mahathir, after 40 years of being arch enemies.

"At one time, Dr Mahathir vociferously rejected Malays who were being used by DAP, but now, because of his anger and the need to fulfil his personal needs, he is willing to become a DAP wager to kill Umno.

"Congratulations, Lim, for finally taming Dr Mahathir successfully, after being enemies for more than four decades. Both are painted as dictators, but only one will be dominant and will be safe," he wrote in the column yesterday.

He said Lim, his son DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and jailed opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's vengeance towards Dr Mahathir was fresh,



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (right) with DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang at a Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house in George Town recently. PIC BY SHAHNAZ FAZLIE SHAHRIZAL

despite cooperating in the name of politics.

Dr Mahathir, he said, would fall victim to political tactics, adding that "it was no secret" that the former Umno president was merely a tool used by Lim and DAP to gain Malay votes in the next polls.

"Even now, Lim is the most powerful in Pakatan Harapan or the Ali Baba pact, despite not

being the chairman.

"Dr Mahathir and (Parti Amanah Negara president) Mohamad Sabu can speak out loud, but it is DAP that will design the grand agenda."

He said he agreed with the view of many political observers that Dr Mahathir, who is also Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, would never become the prime minister if Pakatan

Harapan came into power in the 14th General Election.

"The math is simple. DAP, who has the most parliamentary seats and controls Pakatan Harapan, would not be so stupid as to let that happen. There are rumours that there is another candidate identified (to be the prime minister candidate), but it is not Dr Mahathir," he added.

On July 14, Dr Mahathir had, during the unveiling of Pakatan Harapan's leadership lineup, said PKR de facto leader Anwar would be named as the country's eighth prime minister.

He told reporters that the opposition coalition, of which he is chairman, had yet to declare the seventh premier.

Dr Mahathir, in an interview with *Nikkei Asian Review*, said he would take over the prime ministership if "friends" in the opposition pact saw fit to ask.

This prompted Anwar to say it was not Dr Mahathir's place to unilaterally decide who should be the pact's choice for prime minister.