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# 'Dr M doesn't call the shots'

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## Opposition: Mahathir is chairman but decisions taken are collective

**PETALING JAYA:** While Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad may call himself the “top dog” in Pakatan Harapan, Opposition members say he does not call the shots. Any decision made is collective, they say.

DAP acting national chairman Tan Kok Wai said it had no issue with the label given by Dr Mahathir to describe his position in the Pakatan hierarchy.

“It is not disputed that he (Dr Mahathir) helms Pakatan’s presidential council by virtue of his seniority

and appointment as chairman.

“However, the fact remains that he is not calling the shots,” he said in an interview.

Dr Mahathir’s role, said Tan, was merely to guide and provide direction to the council as any decision made by Pakatan was done collectively in the spirit of consensus.

Last week, Dr Mahathir was named Pakatan chairman, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim its de facto leader and Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail its president.

Referring himself as “top dog” by virtue of being Pakatan chairman, Dr Mahathir had also challenged Najib to a debate, adding that doing so could clear their names. The proposed Nothing To Hide 2.0 debate will be held on Aug 13 in Shah Alam.

PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution said the party had no issue with the term, adding that this should be viewed in its proper context.

“In this context, Dr Mahathir offered to debate with Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. So, his statement is perfectly correct,” he said.

However, Saifuddin said it remained a collective responsibility for all top leaders in the Opposition pact when it came to its roles.

“The council provides strategic directions, determines policies and also handles issues related to empowerment. To me, it is normal for him to have such an understanding because he chairs the (presidential council) meeting,” he said.