

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	03 MARCH 2017

PARTI PRIBUMI BERSATU MALAYSIA

HADI SNUBS MUHYIDDIN

NST- 3/3/2017

Pas has rebuffed efforts to discuss election pact, says Dr Mahathir

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday admitted that Pas president Datuk Seri Hadi Awang has refused to meet Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to discuss a proposed election pact between them.

Noting that PPBM was helpless, Dr Mahathir used a Malay proverb to describe the scenario. "We can't be forcing people, it is like *hidung tak mancung, pipi tersorong-sorong* (we can't be shameless)," he said in jest.

Dr Mahathir said this after attending a Kedah PPBM division chiefs' meeting here yesterday.

Present was his son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, who is PPBM deputy president.

Dr Mahathir, who is PPBM chairman, also seemed to make a U-turn on his one-month ultimatum issued to Pas on whether the Islamist party would collaborate with Pakatan Harapan in facing the next general election.

He said the door for negotiation with Pas would always remain open.

"In general, they (Pas) are not showing any sign that they are willing to work with us. Some of them (Pas leaders) even resorted



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, at the press conference in Alor Star yesterday.
PIC BY SHARUL HAFIZ ZAM

to calling me all sorts of names.

"However, there is another group in Pas which is interested to collaborate with us. What is important is the party's stand and not the individual's stand.

"So, if there is room to discuss the matter even after the deadline is over, we will be open to it."

Mukhriz also acknowledged that the party would pursue talks with Pas even after the March 17 deadline.

"The negotiation with Pas will continue even after the deadline is over. At the same time, we are also working with Pakatan Harapan to discuss seat allocation," he said.

He urged Pakatan Harapan's top leadership to set a date for a meeting with PPBM to discuss the issue.

"That is why it is important for us to sit down with Pakatan Harapan leaders so that we could have

a mutual understanding on the main issues before we move forward to discuss seat allocation," he said.

Mukhriz did not discount the possibility that there could be different zoning in the seat allocation negotiation depending on the opposition parties which gained majority seats in the respective states, such as DAP in Penang, PKR in Selangor and Pas in Kelantan.