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PAKATAN'S 'ALI BABA' PACT TO FOOL MALAYS

Dr Mahathir and Anwar Ibrahim are just frontmen who have no say because they are not MPs, says Salleh

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DAP is using Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as "props" to create an "Ali Baba" situation to woo Malay voters, says a senior Umno leader.

Umno treasurer Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak said DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang was very much in control of the Pakatan Harapan opposition pact, despite attempts to create the perception that it was a Malay-led coalition.

"The perception the opposition is trying to create is that Pakatan Harapan is a Malay-led coalition and not a DAP-led coalition.

"This, however, has been proved to be a fallacy as it is apparent that Lim is very much in control of Pakatan Harapan and dictates what happens.

"Many now realise that both Dr Mahathir and Anwar are mere props and, like most Malays in DAP, are being used as mascots to attract Malay voters when, in fact, they have no say in Pakatan Harapan since neither are members of parliament," Salleh said in a blog posting yesterday.

Salleh's comments comes on the heels of the ongoing debate on who would be Pakatan Harapan's candidate for prime minister.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had on Saturday labelled the opposition an "Ali Baba pact" for its indecisiveness in naming a candidate for prime minister should it win the 14th General Election.

He said the opposition had instead only agreed on a deputy prime minister-designate without any hint or consensus for the No. 1 post.

Najib added it was even "weirder" that the opposition's candidate for deputy prime minister would be the one deciding who would be the prime minister.



Lim Kit Siang



Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak

On Feb 11, Najib tweeted that DAP should admit Lim was Pakatan Harapan's de facto leader, as his party had the most parliamentary seats in the opposition fold.

"Lim Kit Siang is Pakatan's de facto leader. DAP should stop trying to hide it.

"Voters know DAP has most Opposition seats & LKS calls the shots," Najib had tweeted.

Salleh said: "Basically, as Najib, who saw through this charade, said today (as published in the media), Dr Mahathir and Anwar had created the perfect Ali Baba situation for DAP to hide behind.

"DAP knows that on its own, it cannot woo Malay voters, so they need Dr Mahathir and Anwar to do that."

In contrast, Salleh said Barisan Nasional and Umno would never deceive voters or resort to committing about-turns for political expediency.

"The Umno-led Barisan Nasional does not operate this way and would never resort to trickery to deceive voters, because we work transparently and with mutual respect for one another within the coalition," he

said.

"We also do not make U-turns just to suit the political needs of certain individuals at the expense of the party or the coalition like what opposition leaders do."