

PAS: We'll back Dr M in no-confidence vote

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SEMENYIH: PAS has pledged to support Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the event of a betrayal from within Pakatan Harapan as "something is brewing" within the coalition.

PAS secretary-general Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan claimed that the betrayal could come from "two component parties" within Pakatan but declined to reveal which.

The party, he said, had an inkling that something was brewing within Pakatan, which prompted its leadership to discuss the matter with Dr Mahathir during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur last Friday.

He said the discussions resulted in a draft letter in which PAS pledged that its 18 MPs would back Dr Mahathir if a vote of no confidence against the Prime Minister took place in the Dewan Rakyat.

"A draft copy of this undertaking was given to him (Dr Mahathir) during that meeting.

"It states that if anything happens to the PM, we (PAS) undertake to be with him.

"Bear in mind that we are going to sit in Parliament on March 11.

"Dr Mahathir had indicated before about a pengkhianatan (betrayal), and there may be a vote



Uneasy feeling: The PAS leadership has pledged to support Dr Mahathir and claims that betrayal could come from two component parties within Pakatan, prompting them, including Takiyuddin (left) and Abdul Hadi, to discuss the matter with Dr Mahathir.

of no confidence against him.

"We are not new in politics. Our president (Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang) sensed something ... that's why we went to see him (Dr Mahathir)," Takiyuddin told reporters here.

The Friday meeting was between

Dr Mahathir, Abdul Hadi, Takiyuddin and Terengganu Menteri Besar Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar.

Takiyuddin, however, did not make it clear whether it was PAS or Dr Mahathir who had suggested support for the Prime Minister in case of a no-confidence motion.

"We are political people, so we can sense if something not right might happen within Pakatan. Two parties had been mentioned by him (Dr Mahathir) but I do not want to name them," said Takiyuddin.

For a vote of confidence to succeed in the Dewan Rakyat, it must have the support of at least 112 out of 222 MPs.

In a party statement released on Sunday, Takiyuddin said a written agreement was drafted to show PAS' commitment towards Dr Mahathir until the 15th General Election, in the interest of religion, race and country.

Takiyuddin said the meeting also discussed issues pertaining to oil royalties as well as representation for the economic action council in the PAS-led states of Terengganu and Kelantan.

"What was not discussed, however, was the Semenyih by-election. Semenyih was never discussed during the meeting," he said.

This was in contrast with Dr Mahathir's claim that the PAS leaders had signed a written agreement that it would withdraw its support for Barisan Nasional in the by-election.

Takiyuddin explained that the

scale of PAS support for Barisan in Semenyih would be less than in the Cameron Highlands by-election as it was a state seat as compared to a parliamentary seat.

It would still, however, go all out to ensure Barisan wins in Semenyih, said Takiyuddin.

Separately, Selangor PAS election director Roslan Shahir has questioned whether DAP is behind the plot to oust Dr Mahathir.

Writing in the PAS party organ *Harakahdaily* under the pen name of Roslan SMS, he urged DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng to deny that DAP and its co-conspirators aimed to topple the Prime Minister via a no-confidence vote in the Dewan Rakyat.

"Mahathir is worried about a conspiracy to topple him as Prime Minister," the article said.

"Rather than wait on a matter which everyone already knows, it is better that DAP and its partners who want to topple Mahathir through a no-confidence vote deny it."

The article titled, "Bernarkah DAP mahu jatuhkan Tun M?" (Is it true that DAP wants to topple Tun M?), was published in *Harakah's* online portal.