

Mahathir: Pakatan ^{The Star} coalition - 5/1/2019 pg. 2 remains strong

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the Pakatan Harapan coalition remains strong, rejecting claims that it has weakened since taking power.

"We had a meeting to discuss at length the political situation in the country.

"The meeting was done in a calm manner without any disunity or violence. We negotiated as a coalition which can work together.

"Many think this is a coalition that is weak ... it isn't, we are very strong," the Prime Minister said after chairing the Pakatan presidential council meeting here yesterday.

"I think this coalition is functioning. We hold the same view on most issues that we discussed," the Pakatan chairman added.

PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, whom he was seated beside, concurred.

"There is no issue, it has been resolved," he said in response to a question on the transition of power.

Anwar was also asked about a *Financial Times* report in which he was quoted as saying that there were attempts within Pakatan to sabotage the plan to make him the next Prime Minister.

"I never said that. No fake news will be entertained," Anwar retorted. "What I said was you cannot deny that there are some who may not agree, it is a democratic process."

Dr Mahathir also said the federal government had every right to respond to comments made by the Rulers on matters involving the administration of the country.

Commenting on Johor Crown Prince Tunku Ismail Ibni Sultan Ibrahim's remarks that the Pakatan government should stop politicising every issue and start governing the country, the Prime Minister said:

"He (TMJ) doesn't understand the Federation. Perhaps he was not born then, so he is unaware, but I was born at that time."

"When we formed the Federation, it means the Federation governs the whole nation.

"We have a list of what is governed by the Federation and by the states; however it does not state anywhere that the Federation cannot issue statements in response to statements issued by the states," Dr Mahathir pointed out.

In Bukit Mertajam, PKR vice-president Zuraida Kamaruddin advised party No. 2 Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali and newly-appointed PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli to "carry on with the job".

"Both have to understand their positions and wisely do their job," she said in Penanti.

Watch the video
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