

Dr M backs Johor, Perak MBs

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PM: No need to point fingers over toxic spill, situation under control

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is standing by the men-tris besar of Johor and Perak, both hit by controversy.

In defending the Johor men-tris besar over the handling of the toxic chemical crisis, the Prime Minister said Datuk Osman Sapien had his own views on how the matter should be handled.

“But in the end, we are of the same view that there is no cause for emergency or panic.

“Because we know we are doing all the right things and handling the situation well,” he said after launching the Federal Territories Teenage Icon programme.

Dr Mahathir also said he was unaware Osman had gone to Batam, Indonesia, to promote Johor during the crisis.

“Did he go? I don’t know,” he said.

Osman was said to have gone to the Indonesian island on Friday to promote Visit Johor 2020.

Batam is just two hours by ferry from Johor Baru.

Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, also denied claims he gave his blessing to remove the party’s Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu.

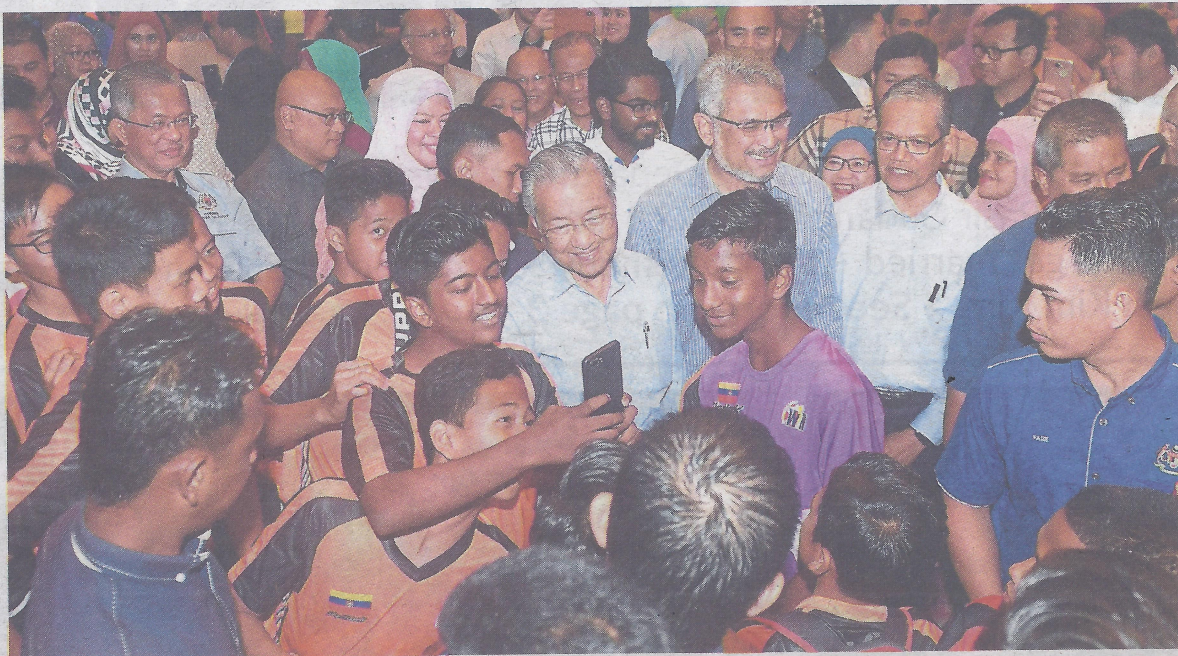
“No such thing,” he said, adding that he was happy with Ahmad Faizal’s performance.

“He is controversial because people want to take his place.

“There are people who even want to replace me,” he said.

There were reports claiming a Perak executive councillor received the blessing of Dr Mahathir, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman, to oust Ahmad Faizal.

On Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee’s position as the Public



Photos with the boys: Dr Mahathir taking a selfie with participants of the Federal Territories Teenage Icon programme at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre. Looking on is Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abd Samad (right of Dr Mahathir). — Bernama

Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman after joining Bersatu, the Prime Minister reiterated that Pakatan did not go against its election pledge and did not expect the former Barisan Nasional MP “to move over”.

“When we appointed him, he was with the opposition, which meant we had made good on our (election) manifesto.

“But if he chooses to join the government coalition, what can we do?” he said, adding that Pakatan’s component parties also agreed that Kiandee remain as PAC chairman.

The Beluran MP’s position is being questioned now that he has officially joined Bersatu.

On Friday, the Prime Minister said Kiandee would not be asked to

step down even though he was now a Pakatan MP.

During the 14th General Election, Pakatan pledged to appoint an opposition lawmaker to head the PAC if they won.

Meanwhile Dr Mahathir said the Look East policy which he initiated in 1982, during his first tenure as Prime Minister, would also be adopted by the current government.

“If we want to succeed, we should learn from those who have experienced success.

“Eastern countries, which were literally destroyed after World War II, have managed to rise and attain extraordinary levels of success.

“We should emulate them if we want the same thing,” he told youths

who attended the programme.

The Prime Minister cited Japan as an exemplary country that managed to recover from the war “in the blink of an eye” to become the world’s second largest economy.

“The Japanese are not only ashamed of failure, they also fear it.

That is why, when they do something, they make sure it is of high precision and good quality because they don’t want to fail.

“As future leaders and those who will inherit the country, this is my advice to you. The future is yours, not mine,” he told them.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

