

Dr M: Pakatan pays heed to warning from Tg Piai

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PUTRAJAYA: All four leaders in Pakatan Harapan's ruling coalition have agreed not to point fingers or "hurl abuse" at each other in the aftermath of its massive defeat in Tanjung Piai, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Describing the 15,000-plus-vote majority defeat in last week's parliamentary by-election as a sure warning from the people, the Prime Minister said the Pakatan presidential council saw it as a rejection by the people of many things done by the government so far.

"This is especially with regard to the cost of living and such. We are also aware that there were other accusations, that Pakatan was being controlled by DAP ... that was the opinion of the Malays.

"While the Chinese felt that DAP was being horsed around by Dr Mahathir of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu).

"We cannot satisfy everyone but the situation now is that the people are not satisfied as we are being paired with both sides," he told reporters after chairing the presidential council meeting at the Perdana Leadership Foundation which focused on Pakatan's heaviest defeat on Nov 16.

The Pakatan chairman said although there were opinions of cracks within the coalition, the leadership of Pakatan remained intact.

"These may be coming from disgruntled members, some of whom who may not know the details and facts. We practise freedom of speech

and will not shut anyone up.

"They can voice their concerns at their party or committee levels, there is no need to publicise it outside," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was decided that parliamentary coordinators would be appointed for all constituencies.

Also present at the meeting were PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Bersatu president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Parti Amanah Negara president Mohamad Sabu and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

Dr Mahathir revealed that the four party leaders did not oppose his suggestion for a Cabinet reshuffle, assuring that the impending move would consider the sentiments of the people and components of Pakatan.

"I told the King that the problem we face is that we are not free to do everything we like. We have to abide by the wishes and sentiments of the people.

"We will find out what the people are not happy about and if we find out that we have not done anything, we will try to correct," he said.

Asked whether Anwar will be considered for a Cabinet post, Dr Mahathir said: "I have not made a decision yet. Everything is possible."

At this point, Anwar, who is the Port Dickson MP, interjected in jest: "But I did not apply!"

the star - 24/11/2019 pg. 2

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