

Tun M still the boss

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➤ No plans to challenge PM through no-confidence vote in Parliament, says Anwar

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the prime minister-designate and whom many thought was going to make a grab for the post, has reassured the nation that there were no such plans.

Anwar, who is PKR president, has denied a vote of no-confidence against Mahathir would be tabled in Parliament.

In the meantime, Mahathir is already considering a Cabinet reshuffle.

Speaking after a Parti Pribumi Bersatu

Malaysia supreme council meeting yesterday, he said the decision was made in the wake of the "damning performance" in the Tanjung Piai by-election.

Mahathir also said Pakatan Harapan (PH) was free to sack him as prime minister if it felt it was the best direction for the coalition.

"The thing is, if we have a change (in leadership) mid-way, it will be very confusing and create a lot of problems.

"We feel that a reshuffle is needed. And I, as the prime minister, will be responsible," he said.

Mahathir said the move will be discussed with the other PH component

parties before a final decision is made, with the matter expected to be raised at the coalition's presidential council meeting on Saturday.

He said he was "keeping an open mind" on whether former BN leaders who have crossed over to PH after the general election might be considered for Cabinet positions.

Earlier, Anwar refuted claims that several PH component party leaders were planning to oust Mahathir.

"I talk to Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Mohamad Sabu, Lim Kit Siang and Lim Guan Eng daily and this topic (no-confidence vote) has never been raised,"

he said, while stressing that his relations with Mahathir "are strong".

Anwar also dismissed rumours that his deputy, Economics Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, was trying to create a new government through the back door.

Azmin was recently criticised for hosting a meeting with Umno and PKR lawmakers on Monday.

The meeting was purportedly to garner support to ensure that Mahathir remains in office.

