

# PM: Explain policies to people

## Pakatan reps must understand and know how to expound manifesto, says Dr M

By ZAKIAH KOYA  
zakiah@thestar.com.my

**SUBANG JAYA:** Pakatan Harapan elected representatives must explain government policies to the people, especially its GE14 election manifesto, says coalition chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said a retreat attended by about 130 MPs from Pakatan and Parti Warisan Sabah together with Pakatan leaders discussed the future of the parties and how the aim of the manifesto was still difficult to achieve.

Such a retreat was crucial as it enabled a two-way dialogue between leaders and the grassroots

through the MPs.

He was speaking at a press conference after attending the one-day retreat here yesterday.

The press conference was also attended by Pakatan presidential council members, which included party leaders of Pakatan, namely PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and Parti Amanah Nasional president Mohamad Sabu.

The retreat was held to answer questions on government policies which MPs are not clear of.

The MPs can also criticise the decisions made and these criticisms would be taken into account by the leaders.

"At the same time, the leaders can explain to the people's representatives about the government's policies and actions.

The Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 is a new policy that has to be understood by the rakyat.

The elected representatives must be able to explain what it is," said Dr Mahathir.

He also said the retreat agreed that many Pakatan representatives did not read their own manifesto in detail.

"It was pointed out that many of us did not read thoroughly our own manifesto. We never made any promise to abolish tolls, for example, but it was generally taken as

part of our manifesto.

"And there are many tilings that were not read carefully by us and we sometimes get carried away by the views of the Opposition," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Pakatan had managed to achieve 60% of its GE14 manifesto promises.

He also brushed off a Merdeka Centre survey which was presented to the MPs at the retreat which stated that Pakatan's support has eroded to only 38%.

There are groups that say that the people's support to Pakatan has dropped to 38% from 80%.

"I do not know where they got this number from, but I myself

know that many people still want to shake my hands and take pictures.

"Also others (Pakatan leaders) when they go anywhere, people want to take pictures with them.

"However, sometimes there is a partial census, which asks only a small group and then the opinions are taken as if it is the whole (community).

"We feel that it is not accurate as we know that the support for the government is still strong and even though we are made up of five different parties, we are still able to function as a government that is able to discuss problems and make decisions that are accepted by all," he added.