

PM: Issue can be discussed

'No problem with council meeting over power transition'

BAKU (Azerbaijan): Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he has no problems if the prime minister power transition issue needed to be discussed in the Pakatan Harapan presidential council.

"If there is a need to discuss, then it can be done in the presidential council (meeting)," the Prime Minister said when asked on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail's remarks of her willingness to discuss the matter within the council.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Pakatan chairman, said he was agreeable to the matter because it was in the presidential council that names and positions of Pakatan leaders were first proposed.

"... And also Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's position, and the proposal for me to be chairman and prime minister-to-be," Dr Mahathir told Malaysian journalists here before departing for a two-day official visit to Turkmenistan.

Dr Mahathir, who was in Baku for the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, which ended on Saturday, said he would be agreeable if there were any party which wanted to discuss the transition issue.

Dr Wan Azizah, when asked to respond to Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's views that the issue of power transition between Dr Mahathir and Anwar should be internally discussed and based on consensus among leaders of Pakatan component parties, said she was agreeable to that.

Muhyiddin, who is the president of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, had said the issue was indeed mentioned during the early agreement between the four Pakatan component party leaders, namely Dr Wan Azizah (PKR), Lim Guan Eng (DAP), Mohamad Sabu (Amanah) and himself.

Later, Dr Mahathir arrived in Ashgabat to begin his two-day official visit to Turkmenistan.

The Prime Minister and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were greeted upon arrival by Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Rasit



Warm welcome: Children presenting Dr Mahathir with Turkmenistan bread shortly after arriving at Ashgabat International Airport for his two-day official visit to the country. Also present is Roseli (centre). — Bernama

Meredow, Malaysian Ambassador to Turkmenistan Roseli Abdul and senior officials from both countries.

The Malaysian delegation for the visit includes Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah and Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali.

Dr Mahathir's visit is at the invitation of Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who had undertaken official visits to Malaysia in December 2011 and November 2016.

Roseli said the Prime Minister's two-day visit was expected to further strengthen existing friendly ties established 27 years ago between Malaysia and the Central Asian nation.

He said Dr Mahathir's visit, his second following the one in October 1994, would also consolidate Petronas' involvement in oil and gas exploration activities in Turkmenistan.

"Tun Dr Mahathir's main focus in this visit is to enhance economic cooperation, especially in the oil and gas industry," he told the Malaysian media.

"Both leaders are also expected to discuss regional and global issues." — Bernama

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