

PM: I will **quit** if all PH parties want it

The Sun - 15/1/2020 Pg. 3

► Decision has to be made by ruling coalition's presidential council, says Tun M

■ BY **RAJVINDER SINGH**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will only step down as prime minister if all four parties in Pakatan Harapan (PH) desire his departure.

"The decision will have to be made by all four parties - Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM), PKR, DAP and Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah)," he said yesterday.

"If they want me to go today, then I will go," he said in response to calls

for him to hand over power to PKR president and Port Dickson MP Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim by May.

PKR lawmakers Wong Chen of Subang, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad of Setiawangsa, Chang Lih Kang of Tanjung Malim and William Leong of Selayang made this call during a public forum in Bangsar yesterday titled "Should Malaysia wait until November for Transition?"

Mahathir said the decision on the matter will have to be made by the PH presidential council.

On a Cabinet reshuffle, he said it

was not easy because it would not simply be based on what he wants but on the collective agreement of all four parties in the coalition.

On his plans as acting Education minister, Mahathir said he was only recently appointed and needed to be briefed by officers from the ministry.

On another matter, the prime minister said the government would need to come up with ways to resolve the current crisis concerning its palm oil exports to India.

"We need to be frank and say it when something goes wrong. If we allow things to go wrong and think only about the money, then a lot of things will go wrong," he said at Bank Rakyat's Inaugural Integrity Forum 2020.

He said events in India today were causing a lot of unhappiness among the people there and the whole world feels that it is wrong to discriminate.

He was responding to a report on Reuters quoting sources as saying that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was seeking to target Malaysia after Mahathir's recent criticism of the country.

Reuters cited anonymous sources as claiming that Indian palm oil importers had effectively stopped all purchases from Malaysia after Indian government officials privately issued a boycott.

Mahathir had criticised India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as discriminatory against Muslims which had sparked deadly protests across the country last year. Prior to

that, he had also come under fire over his remarks on India's actions in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Bernama quoted Mahathir sharing his view on power after the integrity forum.

He spoke about the US, the world's most powerful military power today which could wipe out humanity, and how it was defeated by the Vietnamese, and touched on Iraq, where war which was supposed to be over in three months is still on today, almost 18 years later.

"(President) Saddam (Hussein) is dead but is Iraq much better than during Saddam's time?"

"I don't think autocracy is right. But if democracy is the answer, expecting it to perform miracles overnight is stupid."