

Barisan Nasional sec-gen welcomes independent bloc

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KUALA LUMPUR: The decision by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and five other members of parliament aligned with him to remain as an independent bloc with Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan) will not undermine the Perikatan Nasional (PN) government's stability.

Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary-general Tan Sri Annuar Musa, in welcoming the former premier's move, said the decision should be respected by everyone.

He added that the decision by the Langkawi member of parliament to form and lead an independent bloc inside and outside of Parliament would provide an opportunity for "collaboration" in the future.

"What is important is that they (Dr Mahathir, the five MPs aligned with him and elected representatives from Warisan) are no



Tan Sri Annuar Musa

longer with the opposition, no longer with Pakatan Harapan (PH).

"As we all are aware, (the presence of) independent (MPs) will



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

not have significant impact but (can) play a role (in the country's political landscape).

"For example, although there were independent candidates

contesting the recently-concluded Chini state seat by-election, their presence did not have a significant impact.

"Having said that, I welcome such a decision. It is within their rights and it should be respected by all. At least, it will provide us an opportunity to work together on certain matters."

Annuar, who is the Federal Territories minister, said this after handing over letters of appointment to the Federal Territory Residents Representative Council, here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir and five other MPs, in a joint statement on Friday, said the decision by the PH leadership council to name PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as the pact's prime ministerial candidate, did not involve them or their friends from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia

(Bersatu) and Parti Warisan Sabah.

The other federal lawmaker co-signatories of the statement were his son Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, who is also Jerlun MP, Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (Muar), Dr Maszlee Malik (Simpang Renggam), Datuk Amiruddin Hamzah (Kubang Pasu) and Datuk Dr Shahrudin Md Salleh (Sri Gading).

The six MPs also called out Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah) and DAP for backtracking on their decision.

"Naming (Warisan president Datuk Seri Mohd) Shafie (Apdal) as our prime minister candidate is a positive move, as he would not only be capable of garnering the support of the majority, but is also the best way forward to forge better ties with Sabah and Sarawak," the statement read.