

ANWAR: PH IN TALKS WITH DR M

Meeting to be held to prevent conflict as Bersatu had contested the seat in last election

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PAKATAN Harapan (PH) is continuing its engagement with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's faction on their participation in the upcoming Slim by-election to prevent conflict in the opposition bloc.

PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the matter was broached by the former prime minister himself during a meeting involving both sides last Thursday.

"He (Dr Mahathir) sought a meeting, because in the previous general election, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) contested the seat.

"Thus, we do not want discord among the opposition (as to who will contest).

"We also do not want to provide the excuse that we took action without having a meeting," he said after opening the PKR Information Convention here yesterday, in response to whether there was a need to meet Dr Mahathir's faction on the Slim by-election.

This was after the former premier's faction left PH and became an independent group.

Elaborating, Anwar said the decision on who will be nominated to contest the by-election would

be made at the meeting, which is scheduled to be held tomorrow between Dr Mahathir's faction and PH.

On whether PH had its own candidate, the Port Dickson member of parliament said several names were broached but no decision has been made.

Meanwhile, Anwar said that PKR was geared up to face a snap general election.

He added that although the current situation was not conducive to holding a general elec-

tion due to developments involving Covid-19, it was no excuse for the PH election machinery not to be prepared for any possibility.

"The party machinery nationwide is prepared, even though there is still three years before the mandate is concluded. We will not take any risk."

The Slim by-election will be held on Aug 29 following the death of incumbent Datuk Mohd Khusairi Abdul Talib, 59, on July 15.

In the 14th General Election in 2018, Khusairi, who represented Barisan Nasional (BN), retained the Slim state seat with a majority of 2,183 votes, defeating Mohd Amran Ibrahim who represented Bersatu and Pas candidate Muhammad Zulfadli Zainal.

Perak has 59 state seats, with 32 in Perikatan Nasional, comprising 25 from BN (all Umno), Bersatu (four), Pas (three), DAP (16), Amanah (five), PKR (three), Independent (two) and Gerakan (one).



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim giving a speech at the PKR Information Convention held at Ampang, Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD