

Pakatan backs Anwar as PM

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Coalition's presidential council sticks to original plan for PKR president

PETALING JAYA: The Pakatan Harapan presidential council has made clear its commitment to its original plan for PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be the coalition's candidate for prime minister.

In a meeting to discuss efforts to restore the mandate of the people and Pakatan as government, the council also discussed the proposal for Parti Warisan Sabah president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal to be their prime minister candidate.

"The presidential council believes all efforts to restore the people's mandate must be done and this requires the support of all parties.

"Therefore, the presidential council has given the full mandate to Anwar to continue discussions with all parties, including Shafie, for this purpose," they said in a statement yesterday.

The statement was signed by Anwar, Parti Amanah Negara president Mohamad Sabu and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

Previously, DAP and Amanah had backed a proposal for Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to return as the premier for the third time.

According to the proposal, Anwar would be appointed as deputy prime minister and succeed Dr Mahathir in six months.

However, PKR has been adamant that Anwar should be named as the prime minister candidate.

Dr Mahathir then proposed Shafie to be prime minister in a bid to end the deadlock and to garner

support from MPs from Sabah and Sarawak.

The council also decided in the event that the Federal Government is dissolved for snap election, states under the rule of Pakatan Harapan would not seek to dissolve their assemblies.

"The presidential council is consistent with its stand that the focus of the federal and state governments is to help people with the Covid-19 pandemic," they said.

The council also decided that they

would reject a motion in Parliament by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to drop Tan Sri Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof as Dewan Rakyat Speaker and Nga Kor Ming as deputy speaker.

The Pakatan government that won the elections in May 2018 collapsed in March this year after Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia and several lawmakers from PKR left the coalition to join forces with Barisan Nasional, PAS and GPS to form the Perikatan Nasional government.