

# 'PEJUANG IS NOT AGAINST NON-MALAYS'

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Dr M says only the Malays can understand and solve their problems

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**A**LTHOUGH Parti Pejuang Tanah Air (Pejuang) is a Malay-based political party, it is not fighting against the non-Malays, its chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"We also want to be friendly to non-Malays, because we know that we cannot rely only on the Malays to win the election.

"Malays are facing more problems compared to other races in the country. We want to ensure that the solution to resolve their problems is being formulated by the Malays who understand the issues beleaguering them.

"If we use the same solution that can be applied to all Malaysians, it will not be effective for the Malays. Focus on the Malays is very important and that is why this is a Malay party."

Dr Mahathir, who is among the seven founding members of Pejuang, also reiterated that Pejuang was an independent party that did not belong to either Pakatan Harapan or Perikatan Nasional.

On the possibility of Pejuang contesting in the same seats with PKR or Parti Amanah Negara in the next general election, Dr Mahathir replied: "We have not come to that. But we can come to



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

an understanding (with PKR and Amanah) so that we can win the election.

"It is no use for us to go against each other, which will enable other parties to win the election."

On the youth-centric multiracial political party to be formed by Muar member of parliament Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, Dr Mahathir said he did not think it would be successful.

"Although the youth represent a very big portion among the electorate, it is not enough for the party to win (the election).

"In any (parliamentary and state) constituency, there are the old and young among the electorate," he said, but added that Pejuang was willing to cooperate

with Syed Saddiq and his party.

"We have good relations with him. We have no problems (working together) if the objective is all about fighting corruption."

In a posting on his Twitter account, Syed Saddiq said the youth-centric multiracial political party was a movement for all Malaysians.

"Thank you Tun (Dr Mahathir). We accept your criticism with an open heart.

"This is a party led by youths for all Malaysians. Majority among the leadership will consist of technocrats, professional, entrepreneurs, modern farmers, civil society leaders and others.

"We may be young but we love Malaysia," he tweeted.