

Dr M: Pejuang, Pakatan focusing on pandemic

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PETALING JAYA: Parti Pejuang Tanah Air wants the formation of a National Recovery Council (NRC) to deal with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, says chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He added that the newly-registered party was currently not interested in politics or in launching a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Dr Mahathir said an independent body, comprising professionals and experts should be formed specifically to deal with various issues brought by the pandemic.

"We believe this is the best way to improve the situation. We believe politics will not solve any of the problems faced by the people," he said yesterday.

He was asked if he would launch a vote of no-confidence in Parliament against Muhyiddin.

He said the no-confidence motion was not a priority.

"We are only interested in proposing the NRC to deal with the current problems brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are not interested in politics," he added.

Dr Mahathir, who is Langkawi MP, also noted that the situation had worsened with daily Covid-19 cases hitting about 8,000 and rising daily deaths lately.

He also said he was planning to offer vaccines from China to his constituents, which he said was effective against the Delta variant.

"I hope the government would not delay our approval request or reject it. The vaccine has been used in China to vaccinate more than 100 million people.

"This is important for the people of Langkawi as it will help with the vaccination process," he added.

Asked to comment on the Attorney General's remarks that Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin is still the Prime Minister, the former premier said the law should be applied equally.

"We thank the AG for his explanation, but when Muhyiddin said he commanded majority support, he too did not get consent from all the lawmakers," said Dr Mahathir.

On June 25, The High Court ordered Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin to make a decision on an appeal by Pejuang regarding its registration within 14 days.

Meanwhile, the Pakatan Harapan presidential council claimed Muhyiddin has lost legitimacy to lead as the Prime Minister following Umno's withdrawal of support.

In a statement, it said Muhyiddin was appointed as the Prime Minister based on the support of political leaders.

"So, when a leader of a major party announces withdrawal of support, it means the Prime Minister has lost the backing from the party and the majority of its lawmakers," it added.

The statement was jointly signed by PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Amanah president Mohamad Sabu and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

The three leaders also took note of the statement made by Attorney General Tan Sri Idrus Harun earlier that the Prime Minister and the Cabinet still hold executive power under the Federal Constitution.

They said Pakatan will continue to focus on resolving the issues faced by the people and to come up with better management to handle the Covid-19 crisis and an effective vaccination programme as well as measures to revive the economy.