

# Muhyiddin admits meeting Dr Mahathir, mulls political ties to defeat BN

PERIKATAN Nasional (PN) chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin has admitted to meeting Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, saying that it was arranged by a senior leader of Parti Pejuang Tanah Air.

In a statement, Muhyiddin said he was approached by several political party leaders, including from Pejuang, post Johor state election.

"I have taken the initiative to meet with the main leaders of the political parties in the government and the Opposition to establish cooperations for the 15th General Election (GE15)," he said.

"This is an initial step to get the views of the leaders of the political parties and no final decision is made. My meeting with Tun Dr Mahathir, arranged after a senior leader of the Pejuang party came to see me, was part of this initiative."

The meetings, he said, came about after several political leaders voiced their views to establish



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political cooperation to avoid a multi-cornered clash in GE15.

"They are aware that the majority of the people do not support the Barisan Nasional (BN), which is

still tainted with the image of kleptocracy. But due to multi-cornered clashes between the contesting political parties, the anti-BN vote was split," he said.

This, Muhyiddin said, resulted in BN being able to win the Melaka and Johor state elections despite being rejected by the majority of the people.

"They agreed to avoid a clash of many corners in GE15 to prevent the kleptocrats in BN from returning to power. Such a view is also voiced by many political analysts," Muhyiddin added.

In a press conference last Friday, Dr Mahathir declared that Pejuang will not cooperate with PN's candidate for PM — Muhyiddin — saying that the party will only support candidates who are committed to fighting corruption.

Citing the past "Sheraton Move" which saw 11 Pakatan Harapan MPs and Parti Bersatu Pribumi Malaysia defect to PN, Dr Mahathir said the party will not support anyone who is corrupt or is involved in corruption.

"We will not support any person who is corrupt. We will not sup-

port those who are involved in corruption. We will not support those who are not committed to fighting corruption.

"Muhyiddin is not a good PM and that is why people are not going to support him. Most people are dissatisfied with his leadership. If he really did great things, then he wouldn't need my help to become PM.

"Parti Pejuang would not support Muhyiddin, whose leadership was as bad as that of Datuk Seri Najib Razak," Dr Mahathir said.

He also added that Pejuang is in discussion with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Foundation (YARM) to find a way to fight corruption.

"We have been approached by YARM to work together in fighting corruption. Since Pejuang is against corruption, we will cooperate with the foundation and work towards eliminating corruption," the former PM said. — *TMR*