

# PM: DR M TRYING TO STAY RELEVANT

Anwar says he won't respond to ex-PM's claims, and that he wants to focus on developing nation

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has described Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's claims, that promoting Malaysia as a multiracial country is unconstitutional, as the latter's last attempt to remain relevant in politics.

He said he refused to entertain the former prime minister's claims, adding that he wanted to focus on developing the country.

"The ex-prime minister lost his deposit (in his bid to defend his parliamentary seat) in Langkawi (in the 15th General Election). I do not think we should take him seriously.

"This is his last desperate effort to be seen as relevant and it is going to make him irrelevant.

"I am not going to comment on it," he said at the International Malaysia Law Conference here.

He was responding to a question from former Malaysian Bar president Christopher Leong on Dr Mahathir's remarks.

"I think we have to stay on course (for the country's development). I am a Malay. I respect Malay culture, tradition as well as Malay rulers and Malay language.

"But let us not be racist by denying the rights of other races in the country.

"Yes, the (federal) constitution is clear on the position of Malays.

"But the constitution is also clear on protecting (the rights) of all citizens. And the future is for all Malaysians.

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the International Malaysia Law Conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is former Malaysian Bar president Christopher Leong. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

"Why are we not talking about governance, economic advancement or digital technology?"

It was reported that Dr Mahathir had claimed that promoting Malaysia as a multi-racial country was against

the constitution.

In a tweet, Dr Mahathir had responded to Bukit Gelugor Umno information chief Mohd Huzaidi Mohd Hussin's calls for him to stop playing up racial sentiments.

"I am just voicing out what is stated in the constitution.

"It's not against the law to defend the constitution.

"But what is against the constitution is promoting the country as a multiracial country."