

NEW PUTRA ADVISER

Dr M not ruling out contesting state polls

PUTRAJAYA: New Parti Bumiputera Perkasa Malaysia (Putra) adviser Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not ruling out the possibility of contesting the upcoming state elections later this year.

However, the nonagenarian said any decision would be made after meeting party leaders.

He said he chose to join Putra after being invited by the party as he needed a platform to continue his political struggle.

"Though I am 97 years old, my heart still wants to fight for Malays. Until I die, I will fight for Malays. If they want to call me racist, so be it," he said.

Dr Mahathir's Putra membership was unveiled by party president Datuk Dr Ibrahim Ali at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here yesterday.

He was given the 0000001 membership number, previously owned by the party president, and also the appointment letter to join the party.

Dr Mahathir said Malays no longer influenced the economy, and now they had also lost their grip on politics.

This, he said, came after Umno was no longer the party with the most number of seats in the government.

He also claimed that small businesses, previously owned by Malays, were now dominated by the "pendatang".

"These shops are now bought by the 'pendatang', so what is left for Malays?"

"If Malays continue to be divided, no longer controlling the economy and politics, then their future is bleak," he added.

When asked about a possible cooperation with Parti Pejuang Tanahair, he said that he had no problem with it as long as the party had the same interest in fighting for the Malay community.



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad receiving an appointment letter from Parti Bumiputera Perkasa Malaysia president Datuk Dr Ibrahim Ali in Putrajaya yesterday, PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

"If they want, they can support our movement, not to find seats and work with PH (Pakatan Harapan)," he quipped.

Putra deputy president Tan Sri

Mohd Khalid Yunus claimed since news spread of Dr Mahathir joining the party, more than 1,000 new members had registered with Putra.