

# 'DR M RALLYING ANTI-ANWAR GROUPS'

**Malay Proclamation likely meant to topple PM and his govt, say analysts**

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE signing of the Malay Proclamation by leaders from Pas is an effort to gather factions against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, say analysts.

They said the proclamation, a brainchild of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was likely intended to topple Anwar and his government.

Singapore Institute of International Affairs senior fellow Dr Oh Ei Sun said it was curious that Dr Mahathir, a critic of Pas, would resort to such tactics.

"It would appear that Dr Mahathir and the Islamist party have decided to join forces in their effort to topple Anwar. It could perhaps be explained by his animosity towards Anwar,



Dr Oh Ei Sun



Mujibu Abdul Muis

which is greater than his abhorrence of Pas.

"Pas, as a religious party, has also conveniently taken on a racist mantle by signing such a curious proclamation," he told the *New Straits Times*.

On Wednesday, a political aide to Dr Mahathir, Abu Bakar Yahya, posted photos of Pas leaders, including party president Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang, signing the document.

Abu Bakar wrote: "Led by Hadi, several Pas leaders have signed the document to support the Malay Proclamation in Dr Mahathir's presence."

The Proklamasi Orang Melayu Facebook page said in a post that several Pas leaders attended the meeting on Tuesday night, including vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar, secretary-general Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan and Bachok member of parliament Mohd Syahir Che Sulaiman.

A post said the proclamation aimed to unite and save Malays.

Professor James Chin, of the University of Tasmania's Asia Institute, said the signing was a signal that anti-Anwar forces were coming together under Dr Mahathir.

"They are using Dr Mahathir's name, now that he joined them through the proclamation.

"It looks like Pakatan Harapan (PH) and Umno versus everyone else who is against Umno and Anwar in particular.

Chin said: "I think a lot of people understand that Dr Mahathir is looking for a political platform after his previous platform, Parti Pejuang Tanah Air, crashed in the last general election, with the former premier even losing his deposit."

He said Dr Mahathir had never agreed to Anwar being prime minister and the matter had been going on for decades.

"(And) now that Anwar is prime minister, he is leading the charge to pull him down.

"This personal conflict with Anwar is like a forever thing."

Universiti Teknologi Mara's Institution of Malay Rulers Chair fellow, Mujibu Abdul Muis, said the signing was one of the efforts to amplify the "green wave".

"With the wave still there and Malay voters' mixed sentiments toward the unity government, the signing may benefit PN in retaining Malay states and winning Malay-majority seats in Ne-

gri Sembilan, Penang and Selangor.

"With Dr Mahathir, it gives an extra boost and continuity to PN's green wave in the state polls," he said, adding that the former Langkawi member of parliament also needed a good platform.

Mujibu, however, said the signing seemed to be unsanctioned by PN, since no Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia leader was involved.

"I believe PN needs to do this (to sign the proclamation) as well, to strengthen and balance its narrative for the state polls, with the expectation that PH-Barisan Nasional stand a chance to give it a good fight, especially in straight-fight seats."

Hadi, in a Facebook post yesterday, justified his working with Dr Mahathir.

"Even if he has wronged Pas, there are many similarities that must be taken into account for the sake of unity and to fulfil the obligations of religion and nation.

"We talked about the importance of Malay Muslims, who are the majority in this pluralistic society."