

# Mahathir: I'm no longer GTA chairman

**ALOR SETAR:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Gerakan Tanah Air (GTA) coalition is no longer functional and that he is no longer its chairman.

He said the GTA had not been functioning as intended and its registration had not been approved by the Registrar of Societies.

"The (GTA chairman) post has been there for a long time. There is nothing wrong with it. Since GTA is not functioning, it cannot help us. As a (political) party, we found that it could not win. We contested in the 15th General Election, and GTA and Pejuang lost 125 seats.

"So, it seems that as a party, we cannot win. If we want to win and fight for the Malays, we have to get the support of the Malays," he told Bernama at a Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration organised by the Pertubuhan Prihatin Kubang Pasu here on Thursday.

Also present was Pejuang president Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir was asked to explain his position as the chairman of GTA which is an alliance of four political parties, namely Pejuang, Parti Bumiputera Perkasa Malaysia (Putra), Parti Barisan Jemaah Islamiah Se-Malaysia (Berjasa), and Parti Perikatan Indian Muslim National (IMAN), as well as NGOs that formed Gagasan Bangsa (GB).

On Jan 14, Pejuang announced its withdrawal from GTA, and this led to Dr Mahathir leaving the party, which he founded with 12 others. Dr Mahathir was later reported to have joined Putra.

Meanwhile, Mukhriz, responding to the media, said Pejuang had yet to decide on contesting in the coming state elections to be held in six states and added the matter is still being discussed.