

LOYALTY OF INDIANS AND CHINESE

PN DISTANCES ITSELF FROM DR M'S CLAIM

However, Gerakan leader says coalition will still seek his advice, leverage his experience

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PERIKATAN Nasional (PN) has distanced itself from former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent remarks questioning the loyalty of Malaysians of Indian and Chinese descent in the country.

The decision was reached during the PN Supreme Council meeting, as revealed by PN deputy chairman Datuk Dr Dominic Lau Hoe Chai.

He also said Dr Mahathir's statement would not sway public support for PN since he was not part of the coalition.

"Gerakan, during the PN Supreme Council meeting, stressed that we cannot accept Tun M's (Dr Mahathir) statement and are dissatisfied and disappointed with it," he said here yesterday.



PN deputy chairman and Gerakan president Datuk Dr Dominic Lau Hoe Chai speaking at the party's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SADIQ SANI

In an exclusive interview with an Indian satellite television channel, Dr Mahathir alleged that the Indian and Chinese communities in Malaysia were not entirely loyal to the country.

Lau said PN chairman and Bersatu president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin also disagreed with Dr Mahathir's statement and deemed it inappropriate.

Despite the disagreement, Lau said that PN would still seek Dr Mahathir's advice for the benefit of the four states it governed, leveraging his experience and network while disregarding his divisive statements.

Lau, who is also Gerakan president, said he opposed the proposed Fixed-Term Parliament Act put forth by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said.

Instead, he suggested granting members of parliament (MPs) a permanent mandate for a full five-year term to ensure their dedicated service to the people.

He also said the party proposed that Parliament should entertain a vote of no confidence in the prime minister if supported by a quarter of MPs and ensure allocations were distributed equally among MPs.