

**PAS Would Not Dare Leave Opposition Pact - Dr Mahathir
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- PAS will not dare leave the opposition pact as it is too dependent on and trusting of the DAP, said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said PAS was worried that it would not get the people's support and would therefore lose the upcoming 13th General Election, if it left the coalition.

"I think PAS doesn't dare get out as it depends on the DAP. If it gets out it will lose. But they've broken up with Nasha (former PAS deputy president Nasharudin Mat Isa)," he said, commenting on Nasharudin urging PAS to act on its strength alone if it wanted to remain relevant as an Islamic party.

He was speaking to reporters after the launch of the coffee table book, ANTARCTICA: Malaysia's Journey to the Ice, at Universiti Malaya, here, Wednesday.

Commenting on the granting of blue identity cards to immigrants in Sabah, Dr Mahathir again stressed that it was done because they were eligible for it according to the laws of the country.

He also suggested that Petronas president and chief executive officer Tan Sri Shamsul Azhar Abbas meet with the non-governmental organisations (NGO) which were pushing for his resignation.

"Before we remove someone, we must study the problem first. It cannot be a hasty decision," said Mahathir, who is Petronas advisor.

Recent media reports stated that Shamsul Azhar and his new management were facing pressure from 42 Malay economic NGOs and 101 allied economic NGOs to step down from the helm of the national oil corporation.

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