

Dr M agrees with Perkasa not supporting any political party
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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has endorsed Perkasa's stand not to be aligned to any political party, including the Barisan Nasional (BN).

The former prime minister, who is also the patron of the Malay rights group, appeared to be supportive of the stand during a post GE13 retreat with the Perkasa leadership on Wednesday.

"He did not say much at the meeting but he listened to our reasons in not wanting to support any political party," said Perkasa secretary-general Syed Hassan Syed Ali to The Malaysian Insider.

"We used to fully support the BN but this is not the case anymore," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir told Perkasa to be wise in their efforts to champion the cause of the Malays.

"Tun asked us to plan our strategies correctly so that it will not diminish Malay political power," he added while talking about the meeting which was held at Perdana Leadership Foundation, Putrajaya.

The meeting comes following Perkasa's decision two weeks ago to sever ties with Umno for ignoring them in the run-up to the last general election.

Perkasa chief Datuk Ibrahim Ali had lamented that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had given too much face to those who had "rebelled against the government".

Ibrahim was referring to the government's efforts to reach out to Hindu Rights Action group (Hindraf) and the Chinese education group, the Dong Zong.

Syed Hassan said the meeting decided that from now on, Perkasa will only work with groups that champion Malay rights and Islam.

"In the Kuala Besut by-election we are neutral. Both parties contesting are Malay and it does not matter who wins," he said, adding that it counts 1,000 voters there as its members.

He admitted even though public perception is that Perkasa is an Umno front, this was not the case.

"If they are Umno members why must they join Perkasa. Some Umno members are 50% with Perkasa but most of our members are with us simply because they believe in our struggle," he said. - July 19, 2013

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