

Dr Mahathir moots council of elders to advise PM
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By Anisah Shukry

Tun Dr Mahahir Mohamad has admitted suggesting a council of elders to guide the prime minister in leading the government.

He made the suggestion to the G25 group of prominent Malays promoting moderation and called it a necessary move since the Cabinet would likely greenlight all of the prime minister's decisions, he said.

"In the system that we have now, the prime minister chooses his own Cabinet, and he chooses people who will support him all the way.

"And of course that means whatever he does will be okayed by the Cabinet.

"Whereas an outside council appointed by other people will not agree with the prime minister all the time. They can give their opinion.

"Maybe the prime minister would not accept, but at least he would hear other opinions," Dr Mahathir told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

In a recent interview with The Malaysian Insider, G25 member Tawfik Ismail said that Dr Mahathir met the group and suggested that the next prime minister be advised by a "council of elders".

Dr Mahathir told the group the council of elders will ensure the next prime minister was better than Datuk Seri Najib Razak, said Tawfik.

Tawfik said he could not accept such an argument, as it would be undemocratic to have an unelected council of elders dictating the prime minister.

He said G25 was non-partisan and wished to work with whoever was in power, rather than attempt to change the government.

Dr Mahathir said today he was aware that Tawfik did not like him, adding that the latter had "obviously come with bad intentions" to the meeting.

"In front of me, in front of me, he was very nice and supportive, but when he went out, that is another matter," he said. – November 11, 2015.

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