

Mahathir concedes BN will win 3-cornered fights

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Non-Pakatan Harapan parties who seem set on splitting opposition votes, are actually supporting BN and Prime Minister Najib Razak, says Dr Mahathir.

PETALING JAYA: PPBM chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad has conceded that three or four-cornered fights among major parties in the next general election (GE14) will lead to victory for Barisan Nasional (BN).

The former prime minister said opposition parties that are cooperating under Pakatan Harapan (PH) have a big possibility of winning if the election is mainly between them and the BN.

However, there are other parties who want to join in on their own, under the pretext of wanting to battle Prime Minister Najib Razak and the BN, he said.

“The effect will be that voters who want Najib to be defeated will break up in two or three,” he said in his blog yesterday.

“Najib’s supporters, because of certain reasons, will unite and vote for BN. Najib will win because of the split in opposition votes.”

“In other words, the other parties that are splitting the opposition votes with three or four-cornered fights are actually supporting BN and Najib.”

He described the action of these parties as betraying efforts to bring down Najib and halt the damage inflicted on the country.

“Najib will continue with his administrative ways well known to the public,” he added.

Although Mahathir did not name any party, it is understood that he was referring to PAS.

PAS terminated its “tahaluf siyasi” (political cooperation) with PKR on Thursday when its Syura Council endorsed the decision of the party’s muktamar (general assembly) on April 30.

On Feb 12, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang shut the door on PPBM, saying that the Islamist party will not work with parties that have relations with DAP and Amanah.

Hadi was responding to Mahathir’s statement that gave PAS a month to decide on working together to ensure straight fights in the election.

PAS has refused to work with DAP, with whom ties were severed after the demise of Pakatan Rakyat in June 2015, and with splinter Amanah which was formed in September 2015 by former PAS leaders who left the party after having lost in that year's party elections.

Mahathir also claimed that Pakatan Harapan leaders planning to take over the country in GE14 have an unblemished record without crime or abuse of power.

He said they have the ability and experience to manage a new government if the BN is replaced.

"The government that is being planned to replace Najib is a combination of opposition parties that will be led by leaders who are skilful in politics and assisted by those who are experienced in national administration," he said.

"They do not have a record of crime or abuse of power," he added. "They are learned and have previously been members of the government."

Pakatan Harapan was formed by DAP, Amanah and PKR in September 2015, with PPBM officially becoming the fourth component in March this year.

The leaders Mahathir was referring to include PPBM president Muhyiddin Yassin who is a former deputy prime minister, PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail who is opposition leader in the Dewan Rakyat, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng who is Penang chief minister and Amanah president Mohamad Sabu, the former PAS deputy president and a former MP.

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