

**Dr M: It's ok if PAS doesn't want to cooperate with PPBM**

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**By Minderjeet Kaur**

**The PPBM chairman responds to Abdul Hadi Awang who announced the decision during the PAS muktamar**

KUALA LUMPUR: Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM) chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad has 'welcomed' PAS' decision not to form an electoral pact with it.

"If they close the door, we cannot enter. They are welcome. They don't want to talk to us, okay la," Mahathir told reporters after speaking to Bandar Tun Razak residents during a Pakatan Harapan event.

He was asked about PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang who had said on the sidelines of the PAS muktamar yesterday that the Islamist party would not be working with the Malay-based PPBM as they found PPBM to be a party without direction and a leader.

In recent times, Pakatan Harapan leaders, specifically those from PPBM and PKR, have urged PAS to state whether they will join the opposition bloc to take on the Barisan Nasional.

Last year, PPBM president Muhyiddin Yassin voiced confidence that PPBM could be the "glue" between PAS and Pakatan Harapan.

PAS has refused to work with Pakatan Harapan, especially DAP and Amanah, which are part of the pact alongside PKR and PPBM.

However, lately, even ties between PAS and PKR have been strained and this was evident at the muktamar with PAS' Dewan Ulama and Youth wing passing resolutions to cut ties with PKR.

Mahathir had given a deadline, demanding PAS state if they would cooperate with PPBM. Subsequently, Hadi said there was no need for PPBM to wait for PAS as the party would not cooperate with any party who had ties to DAP and Amanah.

Earlier in the speech, Mahathir urged those who attended the event to vote for Pakatan Harapan. He claimed Prime Minister Najib Razak might give "a lot of money to win over voters. Take the money, but vote for Pakatan Harapan."

He said Pakatan Harapan wanted to ensure the country was not ruled by tainted leaders.

The speech was held under a makeshift tent and attended by party supporters and pasar malam goers.

Some of the topics raised by Pakatan Harapan leaders who attended were on the 1MDB money trail, hike in food prices, the impact of subsidy cuts on sugar and rice as well as corruption.

One of the issues that hit a chord with the night market goers, who were mostly from Bandar Tun Razak, was over a football field in Jalan Jujur. A lot of people raised their voices objecting to any development earmarked for the field.

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