

GE14: Mahathir says he may take on Najib in Pekan

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Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad does not rule out possibility of contesting in national polls, but says he would be in it to win it.

PETALING JAYA: Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today, that if he has to, he will consider contesting in the next general election (GE14).

The Pakatan Harapan (PH) chairman however, stressed that if he were to contest, it has to be in a seat that he knew he could win.

And he is not ruling out Prime Minister Najib Razak's stronghold of Pekan.

"If I were to contest, I must find a seat I can win, but I don't know which seat I can win at the moment.

"There are a lot of people who do not like me. And well, if there is no other candidate, I have to contest... be it in Pekan or anywhere. But must win lah.

"I want to contest to win, not to lose," he told reporters when met at the Raya open house hosted by DAP's Zaid Ibrahim here today.

The 92-year-old, who is also PPBM chairman, said that he would like to "have some say" in the PH government, if they make it to Putrajaya after GE14.

"I would like to put forward some ideas before the new government, and see whether they work or not," the former prime minister said, adding that the ideas he had in mind dealt with the management of the country's finances.

Najib was first elected to the Pekan seat in 1976, when he was only 23 years old. Prior to that, the seat was held by Najib's father and second prime minister, Abdul Razak Hussein, who passed away while in office in January 1976.

Najib has been Pekan MP since, except for the period between 1982 and 1986. In the 1982 general election, Najib ran for a state seat and became Pahang menteri besar for one term.

Despite the strong fight put up by the opposition, Najib has always come out victorious. In the last general election (GE13), he defeated PKR candidate Mohd Fariz Musa with a majority of 35,613 votes.

However, Mahathir has previously been reported as saying that Najib won the seat in 1999 by the slimmest of margins thanks to late votes from Orang Asli and army personnel.

“In 1999, when he almost lost in Pekan, he resorted to bringing in Orang Asli people and soldiers, and they were forced to support him. As a result, he won with just 200 votes,” Mahathir reportedly said at a ceramah organised by PPBM in February this year.

Meanwhile, PPBM’s supreme council member Anina Saadudin and former Umno man Ezam Mohd Nor, have also expressed their intention to take on Najib in Pekan.

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