

Hisham: Mahathir's statement to free Anwar illogical
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Defence minister says it is part of the former PM's strategies to exploit the situation, cause confusion and make Umno members angry.

KULAI: Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that he will seek a royal pardon to free Anwar Ibrahim from prison if Pakatan Harapan wins the 14th General Election (GE14) is illogical, said Umno Vice-President Hishammuddin Hussein.

He said he feared the former prime minister, who is also PPBM chairman, had his own agenda when he made the statement with the aim of confusing Umno members, especially during the party's current nationwide divisions' conference.

Therefore, he reminded Umno members not to be influenced by Mahathir's agenda.

"So, there will be his (Mahathir's) illogical statements every day ... the person (Anwar) that he (Mahathir) asked to be arrested before, the person (Anwar) that he (Mahathir) said was immoral, the person (Anwar) who was isolated from the party ... at that time, I was the party's Youth chief and I felt it.

"Now, he (Mahathir) has changed his stand. I believe it is part of his strategies to exploit, cause confusion and make members angry during the period of our divisions' conference. But so far, I see (the tactic) has been unsuccessful," said Hishammuddin after officiating the Kulai Umno division delegates' conference at the Dewan Raya Bandar Putra here today.

Meanwhile, Hishammuddin said certain information in the election manual had been completed and would be channelled to the election machinery via workshops.

Although the manual was only distributed to the party president, vice-presidents and the wings' chiefs so far, information on target groups was among issues shared with the machinery through workshops which started in the Lenggong Umno division last week. It will be followed by the Kulai and Gelang Patah divisions today.

"...there was information on our target groups, how to approach them, such as through social media and so on ... and how to overcome the propaganda, especially in view of the coming GE14.

“There will be many accusations against us so we must be prepared to answer them,” said Hishammuddin, who is also defence minister.

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