

Interim PM for Pakatan a practical solution, says Amanah

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Dr Mahahtir and PPBM are in for the long run and have recognised Anwar Ibrahim's PM-in-waiting status, says Amanah veep Mujahid Yusof Rawa.

GEORGE TOWN: It's a practical solution. This is what Amanah vice-president Mujahid Yusof Rawa said over Pakatan Harapan's plan to choose an interim prime minister.

At the last PKR convention, PKR, DAP and Amanah members had displayed "Anwar for 7th PM" placards in support of the former opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim to become prime minister if PH sweeps to power in the coming general election.

Reports say Anwar is scheduled to be released next year after serving three years out of the five-year sentence for sodomising his aide.

He will have to wait another five years after release before contesting again in elections to be made PM if PH takes over Putrajaya.

Anwar's family may also make a fresh appeal for a royal pardon for Anwar.

Mujahid said Anwar's reformasi spirit remained alive in the opposition pact and the parties were eagerly waiting for his eventual return to politics.

He said Anwar will be the torch bearer and moral leader of the opposition pact in the run-up to the next general election.

"We must take a second and look at things practically. How can we have Anwar to lead when he is behind bars?"

"As much as I want Anwar to be PM, I have to be practical and I cannot afford to undermine the system.

"Perhaps Anwar can lead morally, but we need someone to lead the battlefield. We are not closing an eye to the Anwar factor," he told reporters at a buka puasa session in Jelutong yesterday.

Mujahid said PKR's jitters over the PM issue were not surprising.

He said PKR should rest easy knowing that PH recognises the efforts put in by Anwar, especially in delivering the popular vote in the last general election.

Mujahid said the opposition had struggled to make inroads for the past decade and PPBM must realise it is a newcomer.

But despite being a newbie, Mujahid felt PPBM and its chairman, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, were crucial to the opposition pact and the former PM recognises Anwar's PM-in-waiting status.

Mujahid said PPBM had shown it wants to be a long-term partner with PH in ensuring BN's ouster in the next polls.

Mujahid said the "last mile" factor was important and he was confident the "needed votes" to win in the next polls could be obtained by having Mahathir around.

"The opposition has already paved the way for about 10 years or more and has now embraced PPBM with open arms.

"PPBM has never said 'no' to Anwar, but they have made their voices heard about who is able to lead. That is their right to say so.

"PPBM is going to enable us to reach the summit — being in power of the federal government," he said.

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