

Muhammad Aiman's age should not be a factor - Dr Mahathir

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SEMENYIH, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister cum Pakatan Harapan (PH) chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today stressed that PH candidate for Semenyih by-election Muhammad Aiman Zainali's age should not be a factor for him not to be elected as the new assemblyman for the state constituency.

He said, if elected, the 30-year-old Muhammad Aiman would have not just the state Cabinet's, but also the federal Cabinet's support and assistance to help him in discharging his duties.

"Yes, he is young, a little younger than me. But there will be older and more experienced leaders behind him, with the oldest being 93 years old who still cannot stop talking.

"We want to help the young generation. One day he'll be old too, so this is the time he should be trained and guided by the older generation," said Dr Mahathir, who is also chairman of Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) at the Santai 2-Roda Semenyih programme here today.

Also present were Bersatu deputy president Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, Bersatu Armada chief Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman and Muhammad Aiman.

Dr Mahathir stressed that elected representatives from PH would be able to implement many of the government agenda for the people as the coalition is now the ruling government.

"But, if an opposition candidate is elected, he will not be able to do anything. We know, we were the opposition before. We can talk, we can criticise people, but we could not do anything because we are not in power," he said.

The Semenyih by-election is being held following the death of its incumbent, Bakhtiar Mohd Nor of PH on Jan 11.

Muhammad Aiman is being contested by Zakaria Hanafi (BN), Nik Aziz Afiq Abdul (Parti Sosialis Malaysia) and an independent, Kuan Chee Heng.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir said he found it odd when Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak was being nicknamed 'bosku' by certain quarters.

He said this was because, behind the 'bosku' image, the former prime minister's name had been plagued with various scandals.

For the record, Najib is facing multiple charges in court, including for breach of trust, abuse of power and money laundering.

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