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Anwar can't buy over BN MPs, says Dr Mahathir

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PUTRAJAYA: It is impossible for Parti Keadilan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be the next prime minister.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said this was because there was no way Anwar could buy over Barisan Nasional members of parliament.

"I still doubt he can get the MPs to switch to his side. He thinks he can buy them but other leaders have got a lot more money. It is not possible for him to buy the leaders."

Dr Mahathir was commenting on Anwar's claim that the Pakatan Rakyat coalition could form the Federal Government by Sept 16.

Anwar polled 31,195 votes compared with the 15,524 obtained by Barisan Nasional's Datuk Arif Shah Omar Shah in the Permatang Pauh by-election.

Dr Mahathir said Anwar's return to Parliament would mean "a tough time for the BN".

"He will make life for (prime minister) Datuk (Seri) Abdullah (Ahmad Badawi) difficult."