

# 'BID TO INFLUENCE TRANSITION'

Anwar meets Dr M, says PM not involved in signature drive

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**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has acknowledged there are attempts by the opposition to influence the premiership succession plan.

The PKR president, in a statement yesterday, said he met Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and discussed the transition of power upon returning from his constituency, Port Dickson.

"I raised the issue as there are efforts from Pas, a group from Umno and a small number of PKR members to collect signatures to support Dr Mahathir's leadership.

"The prime minister is not involved in this and, in fact, stressed that he would resign as promised. I'm inclined towards him leading the country until the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation 2020 Summit in November."

He said the matter, however, would be finalised at a Pakatan



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad meeting Port Dickson member of parliament Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in Putrajaya. PIC COURTESY OF ANWAR'S FACEBOOK

Harapan presidential council meeting on Feb 21.

Anwar said the PH leadership and other partners would uphold the PH agreement on Jan 7, 2018, which supported Dr Mahathir as the seventh prime minister and himself as the successor.

"I also note that with PH turning almost 2 years old, the agreement has not been challenged by PKR,

DAP, Parti Amanah Negara, and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia."

On Tuesday, online portal Sarawak Report claimed that members of parliament from Umno, Pas and Bersatu, and PKR members aligned to Anwar's deputy, Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, "have been pressured to fly in from all corners to Kuala Lumpur" to sign a statutory dec-

laration (SD), stating their support for Dr Mahathir.

This came after speculation that Umno, Pas and Bersatu were trying to form a new alliance, Pakatan Nasional, as revealed by former Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Lokman Noor Adam.

Umno and Pas leaders denied knowledge of the matter.

Pas, however, had said it would table a motion of confidence in Dr Mahathir in the next parliamentary sitting.

Earlier in Port Dickson, Anwar said there were "one or two" members in his party that might be involved in the SD.

"I must caution that we must focus on the economy. No government should kowtow to the demands of the opposition, who is desperate (and) has its own problems."

PKR secretary-general Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail dismissed Sarawak Report's claims, describing them as "rumours".

"It (the SD) is not in our knowledge. The SD is just a rumour, as far as I know," he was quoted as saying.

The *New Straits Times* yesterday had quoted sources in PH, which said major developments could take place in the coalition soon.

Some had speculated that the Feb 21 PH presidential council meeting could see the council pressure Dr Mahathir to step down by May and hand over the reins to Anwar.

Sources suggested that Dr Mahathir would make "an important announcement" early next week.

Dr Mahathir and Anwar had reiterated that they would see through the succession plan announced before PH won the 14th General Election.