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HEADLINE: Pas needs to work with other parties regardless of policies'

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BODY:

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Pas deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang said today the party needs to work with other opposition parties regardless of their policies in the coming general election.

Abdul Hadi told the party Youth assembly on the eve of the three-day muktamar (annual general assembly) that differing ideologies did not prevent parties from co-operating on matters of common interest.

He made it clear that there was no reason why the Opposition parties could not work together.

Any link with the DAP, especially, had been a delicate issue for Pas before, as the DAP opposes its Islamic State concept.

But in the run-up to the muktamar, some Pas leaders said members were no longer against the co-operation with DAP as this was being viewed as a political alliance.

Harakah, the party's bi-weekly newspaper, said in an editorial that co-operation with other parties was expected to be one of the main themes in Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor's speech at the muktamar tomorrow.

The party has also been actively wooing non-Muslim voters. Abdul Hadi said on Saturday that the Chinese and Indians would be in a better position than in China and India, under the system to be established by the alternative government.

Today, outgoing Youth leader Abu Bakar Chik in his keynote address, said the DAP opposed the Islamic State concept in Malaysia in order to remain in the mainstream of Chinese politics.

"DAP should not be overly confident that the Chinese community does not accept Islam" he said.

Abu Bakar said if Umno was in the same boat with MCA which was against the Islamic State concept, then Umno, too, was opposing the establishment of an Islamic State.

Abu Bakar added that it was clear that Islam would be a dominant factor in Malaysia's political future and that the Chinese should not forever be

dictated by the "narrow racial political theme" of the MCA and other Barisan Nasional parties.

He said in an Islamic State, non-Muslims are known as ahli zimmah (covenanted people) and that it was the responsibility of Muslims to protect them.

Both Fadzil and Abdul Hadi have been returned unopposed for another two-year term. The full list of nominees for the posts of vice-president downwards would be known by 3pm tomorrow.

The issue of co-operation with opposition parties was also raised during the debate later, with the Kelantan representative, Mohd Zaki Ibrahim saying that the ties would have to be on a sustainable basis.

The Terengganu representative, Saiful Bahari Mamat, said in co-operating with other parties, Pas must not lose sight of its struggles.

GRAPHIC: Picture - Young Pas members ... Delegates to the Pas Youth Assembly held at its Markaz Tarbiyah in Gombak yesterday.

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