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PAS-DAP

PAS COOPERATING WITH DAP FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE- FADZIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- PAS today defended its cooperation with the DAP, which has a different philosophy and political agenda, saying it is based on the policy of jointly demanding justice and basic rights.

PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor claimed that at present there was injustice in the country and this had prompted his party to cooperate with the DAP.

"The thing which is uniting us (PAS and DAP) is the question of justice. And the injustice prevalent now has placed us in a union. This is our focus. We are not discussing our respective agendas," he said.

Fadzil, who is also Chairman of the Malaysian Peoples Justice Movement (GERAK) was speaking to reporters after opening a meeting of the movement here.

PAS together with the DAP are members of Gerak along with several other opposition parties and certain Non-Governmental Organisations.

PAS is struggling for an Islamic State in Malaysia while the DAP is against this objective saying it is unsuited in a multi-religious and multi-racial Malaysia and also because it is against the Federal Constitution.

Fadzil said the PAS-DAP cooperation was also to deny victory to the Barisan Nasional in the general election, which according to him, would be held anytime now.

He said PAS was not only interested in cooperating with political parties or NGOs especially in facing the general election but also with any other group interested in changing the present system of government in Malaysia.

Asked about Gerak's achievements since its inception in September last year, Fadzil said it had revived public awareness of its rights under the law.

He said Gerak's success in arousing public awareness was evident in the gathering in Terengganu last week, which according to him, was attended by about 100,000 people.

He said Gerak would organise more such gatherings and urged the police to adopt what he called a just attitude and issue permits for the purpose.

Gerak would hold a gathering in Kubang Pasu (Parliamentary Constituency of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) on Feb 25 and in Merbok also in Kedah on Feb 26, he said.

Among the political leaders present at the movement's meeting here were Dr Syed Husin Ali (Parti Rakyat Malaysia), Dr Chandra Muzaffar (Aliran), Ahmad Nor (DAP), Rustam A. Sani and Mahfuz Omar of the Gerak Secretariat.

Parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang in his speech at the function said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should easily win the next general election.

But, he predicted the ruling coalition would suffer its worst general election defeat in the country's history -- losing its traditional two-thirds parliamentary majority.

Nonetheless, the DAP secretary-general said the denial of a two thirds Parliamentary majority to the Barisan Nasional government needed "unprecedented cooperation among opposition political parties and other groups."

Despite the differing views, he said, "we (PAS and DAP) have however moved out of our respective cocoons and are prepared to work for the good

of all Malaysians."

"We must respect each other's political position -- PAS' goal of an Islamic state and DAP's stand that an Islamic state is unsuitable and inappropriate for multi-religious Malaysia," he added.

--BERNAMA
MHI GM AAM