

Double blow for Keadilan

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KUALA LUMPUR: Parti Keadilan Nasional was dealt a double blow yesterday when its Youth vice-chairman Hamdan Taha announced his decision to quit his post and deputy president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said his decision to relinquish his post was final.

Hamdan said he was tired of the bickering between Malay political parties as they talked about Malay unity, saying the community's leaders should find ways to unite.

Dr Chandra, who had earlier said he would re-consider his decision to merely remain an ordinary member, said he would not seek re-election.

Hamdan, who was the Keadilan Teluk Intan division head, urged Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to "sit down together" to address the Malay unity issue.

"Let this be my parting words. I do not have hope that Anwar will become prime minister," he said in an interview yesterday.

He said he want to make it known that his resignation was simply made because he "was tired of the whole charade and bickering between Malay political parties".

"I came from Umno to join Keadilan to continue the fight for the Malays. I have come to another dead end," he said.

Hamdan said when he was in Keadilan, he was one of those who thought who could address the issues of the Malays by supporting Keadilan.

"Despite the cry for a new political culture, nothing happened and I was trapped within an organisation which was similar to a non governmental organisation," he said.

Hamdan, a former Perak Umno information chief, said he had not decided whether he would be joining another politi-

cal party.

Dr Chandra, meanwhile, said he was convinced that "I should adhere to my decision not to offer myself for re-election in November."

He reiterated that he wanted to focus his energies upon fundamental challenges in the international arena and that issues in international politics, economics and culture deserve much more attention from public intellectuals in countries like Malaysia.

Saying he had no regrets entering party politics, he said his brief involvement in Keadilan "has reinforced my belief that integrity is the most vital ingredient in leadership; that the conduct of politics should be guided by ethical principles and that one should never separate means from ends in the pursuit of power."