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Keadilan supreme council rejects `unity talks'

Abdul Razak Ahmad

PETALING JAYA, Mon. - Parti Keadilan Nasional's supreme council which met today has rejected the proposed Malay unity talks initiated by Umno.

The decision was made by the council at its five-hour meeting at the party's headquarters here.

In a statement issued by party president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail tonight, she said the rejection was made after getting the views and feedback from members.

She said the party rejected the offer because it felt that what was currently happening was a shift in support of the Malays from Umno towards the Opposition.

Pas, whose central committee met on Friday, had agreed to participate in the talks. Dr Wan Azizah had also earlier indicated that she was in favour of such talks.

She had said on Dec 25 that she welcomed any effort by Umno to hold discussions with the party.

Bernamea had then quoted Wan Azizah as saying that Keadilan would like it to be held within the context of national unity.

Dr Wan Azizah said the main issue today is the crisis of confidence towards the national leadership.

Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad initiated the move for Umno to take the lead in the discussions last month.

It is learnt that other Opposition parties, namely the DAP and Parti Rakyat Malaysia had also called for a joint "presidential meeting" tonight to discuss their possible participation in the unity talks.

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