

07/01/2001

Pas agrees to join Malay unity talks

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Pas central committee today agreed to an Umno-initiated tripartite talks with Umno and Parti Keadilan Nasional.

In a meeting at its headquarters in Taman Melewar this morning, the committee felt that the proposed talks should be held at the delegates' level, and not merely at the presidential level.

Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor told reporters of the committee's decision at the party's Hari Raya open house at its headquarters.

Fadzil also confirmed he had received a letter on the proposed talks from Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a few days ago.

Pas's committee meeting arose from Umno's proposal to hold a "Malay unity" dialogue among the presidents of the three parties.

The Umno management and disciplinary committee chaired by party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made the proposal on Wednesday.

Fadzil said the committee, while agreeing to the proposed talks, felt it should be widened to cover national unity, and not just Malay unity.

Pas secretary-general Nasharudin Mat Isa has been chosen to head a technical committee to discuss the scope and agenda of the proposed talks with Umno and Keadilan.

Fadzil said Keadilan had yet to formally decide on the matter, but Keadilan president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail had indicated her agreement.

Fadzil said the party would send its top leaders to the meeting, and hoped Umno and Keadilan would do likewise.

On the venue, Fadzil said: "We will discuss the place and time for the meeting later, but Pas is suggesting that it be held at Parliament House and not at Putra World Trade Centre or Putrajaya.

"This is because the Parliament building is a symbol of unity."

Meanwhile, Keadilan's supreme council will meet on Monday to discuss the proposed talks.

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