

Anwar's fate should not affect PAS-PKR ties

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PAS deputy president aspirant Mohamad Sabu feels the Islamist party should continue to remain with Pakatan Rakyat whatever happens to Anwar.

Mohamad or better known as Mat Sabu, said this was his personal opinion, not the party's official view.

"Regardless of what happens to Anwar (in the sodomy trial or the latest sex tape allegations) I feel PAS should remain in Pakatan," he said.

It would be the PKR's responsibility to take the necessary action should anything happen to Anwar as he is its de facto leader, it is of no concern to other parties, he added.

Mat Sabu (left), a former PAS vice-president, said he does not want to use the word guilty as it was not up to him to decide since it would be the court which will eventually decide.

He also did not want to be drawn to comment on the on-going sex-tape saga.

Mohamad, who is now a PAS central committee member, said let the police complete their probe.

"We are hoping for a thorough and trustworthy investigation," he said.

Mat Sabu said he was not accusing Anwar of already being guilty (with regard to the sodomy trial or the sex tape allegation) but painted a what-if scenario when cornered by reporters.

He said PAS is committed to Pakatan regardless of whatever happens.

Quizzed as to the on-going spat between PAS secretary-general Mustafa Ali and PKR deputy president Azmin Ali over the sex-tape affair, Mat Sabu believes the matter can be resolved by their respective parties.

Since Saturday, there has been an on-going altercation between the two after Mustafa was reportedly misquoted by some mainstream media as saying that PAS would review its ties with Pakatan if police investigations show Anwar was the person in the tape. This led to Azmin's retort over Twitter to criticise Mustafa.

Mustafa responded the next day for Azmin to open his mind and not believe what was reported in the mainstream papers.

Mat Sabu also echoed Mustafa's sentiments that PAS should wait for the police to complete their investigations.

He would not be drawn on whether the proposed oath ceremony was the right thing to do and said the matter should be referred to the party's syura council.

Role to strengthen PAS in Pakatan

In announcing his candidacy for deputy presidency, Mat Sabu hopes to assist the party president to strengthen PAS in Pakatan Rakyat if he wins election to the post.

"I have helped and managed to bring PAS to be close to other non-governmental organisations and people of other races, and worked well with Pakatan," he said.

"In the past, I have worked with various NGOs (Bersih) and anti-Internal Security Act organisations,

working with all races and also among Pakatan Rakyat members. I hope to use this experience for PAS' benefit," he said

opposition boycott by-election 110107 mohamad sabul is learnt Mat Sabu, who originally hails from Penang, has received 20 nominations from the 179 divisions nationwide. The actual number of nominations he received is not certain as the PAS election steering committee will announce the nominations on May 15.

All 179 divisions have until May 15 to conduct their AGMs and also make their nominations. It only takes two nominations for a person to contest for any post in the Islamist party.

From May 15, nomination forms would be distributed to those who qualify for them to decide on whether they will accept the candidacy. The party will have its annual muktamar at Taman Melewar between June 3 and 5.

He also announced in the press conference that the proposed launching of the KelabMohamadSabuDot.com supporters club, which was put up by his supporters, scheduled for next weekend has been postponed to after the party's muktamar.

"I know there has been a lot of hard work to do with regard to the setting-up of the club but I do not want it to create problems for the party in the run-up of the elections. I am told there are thousands from PAS, PKR and DAP, willing to come on May 6 to support the launching of the club, but it is improper for it to be held in view of the coming muktamar," he said.

"I am afraid that if the launch is made it would be construed as a campaign to help me win the post of the deputy presidency and this is improper. Hence, the launching will be postponed to another date which is yet to be fixed," he said, adding that he apologised for the cancellation.

When quizzed whether he was pressured by the party to do so, Mat Sabu replied no, but felt that the timing was improper.