

**Najib urges PAS to get out of Pakatan
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Prime Minister Najib Razak today urged PAS to leave the Pakatan Rakyat coalition as only DAP is reaping benefits from three-member opposition coalition.

He said that the PAS-DAP cooperation is only benefitting the DAP and this could be clearly seen in the just-concluded Sarawak state election where PAS worked very hard but it was the DAP which won.

"In Terengganu, we see posters captioned "PAS ganti UMNO" (PAS replaces Umno) but in reality it's "DAP ganti PAS" (DAP replaces PAS)," he said when opening a people's housing scheme in Pulau Duyong in Kuala Terengganu today.

According to Najib, PAS should get out of Pakatan and shift its attention elsewhere.

"It did not matter if the party (PAS) did not want to join the BN," he said.

Also present were Terengganu Menteri Besar Ahmad Said, Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, Rural and Regional Development Minister Shafie Apdal and Youth and Sports Minister Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Najib said DAP was the dominant force in Pakatan and its two other partners - PAS and PKR - were playing second fiddle to it.

"We see in a number of issues DAP will object if they do not fit into their ideology. So if they were to form the government, they might not be able to agree on major issues," he said.

The prime minister said if PAS wanted to champion Islam, DAP was not the right partner to do this.

Asked about the unity initiatives held between Umno and PAS before this, Najib said: "This can be achieved, (but) we cannot anticipate anything.

"What I want to say is that in the Pakatan coalition now, only the DAP is benefitting."

Strange bedfellows

Meanwhile in Muar, Muhyiddin Yassin has described PAS' position in Pakatan as a 'strange bed partner' because the party's interests and objectives are vastly different from those of the other component parties in the pact.

The deputy prime minister said PAS had to compromise with the DAP especially concerning the party's original struggles to turn Malaysia into an Islamic state.

"If it mentions the matter (struggle to form Islamic state) the DAP will be upset. Karpal (Singh) had once said 'over my dead body' and this was repeated at the Sarawak state election. It's an open confrontation (against PAS)."

"So, there is no reason for PAS to remain (in Pakatan), it's not sustainable. Our view from outside is that the situation is not normal," he said.

Muhyiddin recalled the situation during the Sarawak state election, when PAS was ignored by the other Pakatan component parties when it campaigned on its own without getting any assistance from the PKR or DAP.

Umno, said the DPM, always adopted an open attitude and stressed on the importance of Malay and Islamic solidarity.

"We struggle for the race, religion and country without ignoring the interests of the other faiths. It is important to forge Malay unity and we are open in terms of cooperation (with PAS) or even further than that," he added.

- Bernama

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