

Sneak peek of Pakatan manifesto at weekend meet
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Pakatan Rakyat will give a small peek into its anticipated election manifesto at the coalition's convention this weekend, through several working papers.

NONEAt a press conference today, PAS MP for Kuala Selangor Dzulkefly Ahmad said the papers to be presented at the Alor Star convention make up the 'Jingga Deal'.

"This Jingga Deal will also be launched in the election manifesto," Dzulkefly said.

He said Kelantan exco member Husam Musa will present a paper on reforming the civil service; DAP Youth chief Anthony Loke will speak on federalism; Selangor MB Khalid Ibrahim will deliver an anti-monopoly paper; and PKR Felda bureau chief Suhaimi Said will present one on reforming Felda.

PAS vice-president Mahfuz Omar said the convention, themed 'Bersihkan Malaysia' (Clean Up Malaysia), would be heavily focused on the coming general election, which could be called "after Chap Goh Mei" on Feb 7.

"The convention will give Malaysians an impression of how Pakatan aims to solve issues of the nation... to create a Malaysia that is owned by all Malaysians," Mahfuz said.

Civil society, NGO members to take part in debates

The one-day convention on Saturday, which will see PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim's first public appearance in Malaysia since the acquittal on his second sodomy charge, will also feature debates by civil society representatives.

"We will have debaters from among the civil society, NGOs, student groups, academicians and from the communities of Sabah and Sarawak," Mahfuz said.

The convention will be preceded by ceramah sessions in 14 of 15 parliamentary constituencies in Kedah on Jan 13, followed by the final one in the remaining constituency on Saturday night.

He said about 2,500 delegates and observers will attend the convention, while organisers are expecting a bigger number for the ceramah on Saturday night.

"The organisers are prepared for up to 100,000 people," he said of the event to be held at the Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Suka Menanti Stadium.

This will be Pakatan's third convention, with the first having been held in Shah Alam in 2009, during which the coalition launched its common policy framework.

The Buku Jingga was launched at the second convention in Kepala Batas in 2010.

Also present at the press conference today were DAP vice-chairperson Tan Kok Wai and PKR vice-president N Surendran.