

PKR supremo urges Hadi to contest next GE

MalaysiaKini.com

January 29, 2012

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Pakatan Rakyat is not too eager to let go of PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, who reportedly told a Malay language tabloid that he would not be contesting in the 13th general election.

sarawak state election dap second nite ceramah kit siang signing ubahOpposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said Abdul Hadi plays a "critical role" in Pakatan Rakyat, and had helped to bring the coalition to where it is today.

The loose coalition of DAP, PAS and PKR, had managed to seize five states from BN in the 2008 polls, although it lost Perak later, following the departure of three assemblypersons from Pakatan.

Anwar, who is Permatang Pauh MP, said Hadi is very much needed in the team for the coming general election, which although not due until 2013, is speculated to be only a matter of months away.

"I will meet him soon to discuss the matter and I will urge him to stay," he replied, when asked to comment on Abdul Hadi's reported statement in Sinar Harian.

"His contribution like other (veteran leaders) including DAP advisor Lim Kit Siang (above) is much needed in the coming election," he added.

PAS in crisis?

Umno leaders have jumped to the conclusion that Abdul Hadi's purported intention to step down indicates that there is trouble in PAS, following the sacking of Selangor executive councillor Hasan Ali.

pakatan convention alor setar abdul hadi awangKelantan Umno liaison committee deputy chief Awang Adek Hussein, for example, quickly concluded that this meant something was wrong in the party.

Awang Adek said the former Terengganu menteri besar's statement was "extraordinary" and showed that the party he leads is facing a severe crisis.

Meanwhile Harakahdaily yesterday reproduced a transcript of Hadi's conversation with Sinar Harian to clarify the daily's frontpage claim that the PAS leader was pulling out of the next GE.

Hadi (above) had told the reporter when asked if he would contest the next GE, "I leave that to the party whether at the top or the bottom (whether they want me to).

"True, I have been an elected rep for a long time..." he told Sinar, counting the decades he had been state assemblyperson and MP.

"And that's why I made the offer - firstly, that if I did not contest any seat I could move freely around the country.

"And secondly, to contest only one (seat, whether parliament or state). That's my hope on this matter," said Hadi.

When asked whether it would be a parliament or state seat, he said, "That's up to the party to assess."

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