

Sarawak PKR wants BN-Pakatan 'roundtable'

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Sarawak PKR is calling on the state government to initiate a 'Rainbow Roundtable' talk among all BN and Pakatan Rakyat component parties, other political parties and NGOs to discuss matters and find solutions to problems affecting the state and the country, said its vice-chairperson See Chee How.

"Yesterday, the Pakatan Rakyat leadership council had, through Anwar Ibrahim, Lim Kit Siang and Mohamad Sabu, reiterated its call to rival BN for a dialogue to come up with solutions on raging racial and religious issues.

"The ruling coalition has been silent on the proposal.

"I doubt it will make any headway at this juncture because the ultra rights in Umno, being a party which is the core of the BN coalition, is the main cause of the problems," said See (left) who is the Batu Lintang assemblyperson.

He added that any hope for such "unprecedented national effort" must come from Sarawak, as not only is Sarawak is the only state in Malaysia where Umno has not established its direct political presence, but also due to the "harmonious multi-racial and multi-religious communal fraternity" amongst Sarawakians.

"In Sarawak, it is quite clear that the relationship amongst the political leaders is more cordial and it is certainly not uncommon that they expressed common concerns on matters affecting the state.

"But the raging racial and religious tension is sending ripples into our state," he said during a media conference.

He warned that Malay rights group Perkasa has announced it plans to spread its wings into the East Malaysian states while "overzealous administrative bodies" are making decision without taking into consideration the sensitivity of those decisions in the East Malaysian states.

"Added to those, the 'Rainbow Roundtable' should also discuss and find common solution to address the effects of price hike to essentials of which the rural Sarawak is worst affected, and the fading rights and privileges of East Malaysians under the Malaysia Agreement.

“With Sarawak taking a bold first step, it will definitely break the icy relationship between the rival coalitions, and pave the way for a national effort towards addressing the problems in the interests of all Malaysians,” he said.

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