

PAS vows not to 'do a Perak' with defected reps
MalaysiaKini.com
May 13, 2014

PAS will not try to bring down the Terengganu government by courting three of BN's defected state assemblyperson like BN did in Perak, says the Islamist party's state chief commissioner.

"We maintain our stance - and we will discuss this with the central leadership - that we are not interested in courting them for now," Satiful Bahri Mamat told a press conference in Kuala Terengganu this evening.

He added that PAS will give time to BN's newly-appointed Menteri Besar Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman time to muster his majority before PAS makes its move.

BN has only 14 state assemblypersons in the legislative assembly to Pakatan Rakyat's 15 after three of its state representatives quit Umno to become independents.

"The sultan has only just given the appointment letter yesterday (to Razif) so I think we should give him space, we shouldn't be too hasty.

"The sultan has given his trust to Razif so let's give him a chance to build his majority, if he fails, then we will inform of our next move," said Satiful, who is also Paka state assemblyperson.

'We've learnt from Perak'

Satiful stressed that the party did not want to see a Perak-style coup in Terengganu.

"What happened in Perak has taught us a lesson, we do not want to fall into the same hole twice," he said.

Asked about PAS' course of action if the defected trio wanted to join PAS, he replied: "We will discuss if it comes to that".

If Razif cannot muster a majority for BN, Satiful (left) said, it was best for the embattled menteri besar to be a "gentleman" and dissolve the state assembly.

"The mood now is that people want to see PAS take over the government but in line with democracy and the rakyat's voice, it is best for us to let the rakyat decide," he said.

Satiful was also optimistic about Pakatan's chances if snap polls are called, saying that momentum was on the coalition's side after victory in the Kajang by-election and their

chances are good in the Teluk Intan and Bukit Gelugor by-elections.

He added that the hudud issue will gain PAS support if snap polls is called but "it is not a political issue but a matter of faith".

Satiful said the split and factionalism in Umno, which has now spilled into the public sphere, will work in PAS' favour.

Former menteri besar Ahmad Said early this morning initiated a series of defections from Umno, hours after he was replaced by Razif.

Ahmad, who is Kijal state assemblyperson, together with Ajil assemblyperson Ghazali Taib and Bukit Besi assemblyperson Roslee Daud quit Umno to become Independent.

The Umno leadership is now scrambling to stave off further defections and bring the disgruntled state assemblypersons into its fold to prevent a collapse of the BN state government.

In 2009, BN took Perakians by surprise by announcing that three state assemblypersons from Pakatan Rakyat had defected to become BN-friendly independents.

The defection erased Pakatan's majority, giving BN 31 seats to Pakatan's 28 seats in the state assembly.

The coup led to a protracted constitutional crisis before BN took over the state government.

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