

Anwar says no indication of Pakatan breaking up
MalaysiaKini.com
July 30, 2014

There is no indication of a break-up in Pakatan Rakyat following PAS' resistance to remove Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, insists PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim.

His communication with PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, who wants Khalid to remain as menteri besar, was still open and that he had earlier sent his "Selamat Hari Raya" greetings to Hadi and wished him well, Anwar said today.

He does not see any indication of a break-up of the Pakatan coalition, but Anwar did acknowledge misunderstanding over the issue within Pakatan.

The misunderstanding included "comments from the lower rungs that are not appropriate", Anwar said when met in Permatang Nibong, Seberang Jaya.

"There are sentiments on the ground and allegations that I choose not to entertain because, as far as we are concerned, we have full confidence in the policies of the Pakatan leadership," he added.

"I believe Pakatan leaders from DAP, PAS and PKR will see the importance of cooperation among the parties and will collaborate even further as we have preserved for so long due to our cooperation."

PAS to work with Umno?

The possibility of a break-up of the Pakatan coalition arose with DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng questioning whether the two-party system in Malaysia could be maintained with one Pakatan component continuing to go against the spirit of consensus among the allies.

On Monday, WhatsApp discussions among PAS leaders were leaked, showing there were suggestions, especially by a central committee member, Mohd Zuhdi Marzuki, for the party to work with Umno to keep Khalid as the menteri besar of Selangor.

Anwar said the Selangor issues have been discussed in all Pakatan meetings at all levels, and these issues included the Kinrara-Damansara Expressway, the hike in salaries of state executive councillors and complaints about state allocations not being used to repair roads.

Anwar said he, together with DAP national adviser Lim Kit Siang and Hadi (right), had confronted Khalid over these issues.

"Therefore the Pakatan leadership is already aware that there are issues to be addressed

and improved in Selangor," he said.

Anwar said the Kajang Move in March was came about because of the limitations in Khalid's leadership, although earlier, his contributions were acknowledged.

He said Khalid had been informed of his limitations, even before the Kajang Move, and the decision to replace him had been conveyed to him.

"We try to avoid comments that will heat up the situation," he said.

However, Khalid (left) has remained steadfast in wanting to complete his term as menteri besar, which will end when the five-year term of the Selangor state assembly expires in 2018. He first took the post after the 12th general election in 2008.

Khalid has sought the support of Hadi and the Selangor sultan to keep his post, and appears to be backed by Umno, including the party's media such as Utusan Malaysia and TV3.

There is also a threat that Khalid may seek to dissolve the state assembly for a fresh mandate from the people of Selangor to keep himself in the post.

Anwar dismissed this matter, saying "we have not reached that situation".

On PAS committee member Zuhdi's suggestion of a possible cooperation with Umno to retain Khalid as menteri besar, Anwar said he does not think such is the stand of PAS.

'Hadi is totally committed to Pakatan'

Hadi Awang, he added, "is totally committed to Pakatan" and that "such views are not healthy".

Anwar said he would leave it to the PAS leadership to act on Zuhdi, who also proposed suggestions described as racist in nature.

The Permatang Pauh MP was also asked if he would seek the support of Nik Aziz, whom Khalid had gone to meet recently and tweeted a picture of him with the former Kelantan menteri besar.

"I meet him (Nik Aziz) regularly. It was not a political gimmick for any purpose," Anwar said, curtly.

On the Penang chief minister's concern that Pakatan was heading for a break-up, Anwar said he had spoken to Lim on the matter before Lim left for Japan on Sunday.

"Lim is very concerned about what's happening and rightly so, but I told him we must continue because of the commitment of Pakatan leadership," Anwar said.

"The attitude and position of Pakatan leaders are more important, not some of the small factions of PAS or any party that sometimes comes out with extreme statements that run contrary to the Pakatan spirit."

On Hadi supporting Khalid to remain as Selangor menteri besar after Anwar announced that his wife and PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail would be appointed to the post, Anwar said it was "Hadi's personal view".

He said the PAS delegation that attended the Pakatan meeting last Wednesday had agreed with Wan Azizah's appointment.

"This is something for PAS to work out at their Aug 10 meeting. Hadi was already informed of Khalid's removal but not the latest developments, so it is up to his party to inform him.

"They also have to work out the issue of some of their leaders not agreeing to a woman menteri besar. The ramifications of this are not good for the party in the long run," Anwar added.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd
Source <http://www.malysiakini.com/news/270149>