

Pakatan leaders vow to strengthen troubled pact
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Top Pakatan Rakyat leaders today pledged to strengthen the opposition coalition amid strains within its component parties, which are at odds over whether to replace Selangor Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim.

In a joint statement today, it said the rise of Pakatan was a product of the rakyat's support and the coalition will work to ensure that its members remain together.

"The spirit of understanding and camaraderie in Pakatan Rakyat is the basis of its strength and integrity to bring political, social and economic change and reform in this beloved country.

"Pakatan Rakyat stresses that we are committed to continue with this struggle by strengthening our understanding and camaraderie in the political coalition within our common policy framework," it said in a brief press statement today.

The statement was jointly issued by PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang and DAP supremo Lim Kit Siang.

They also promised that Pakatan component parties will seek to resolve the ongoing crisis together.

"We are committed in facing the recent arising issues collectively and with courage and principle based on universal values that we share for the sake of fulfilling the trust and responsibility the rakyat have given us," said the trio.

How the fire started

PAS has been in friction with partners PKR and DAP after its president Abdul Hadi Awang unilaterally declared support retaining Abdul Khalid as menteri besar.

PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution claimed that this was despite a Pakatan leadership council agreement to replace Abdul Khalid.

Following the declaration, the DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng had also warned that the coalition may break up.

The situation was further aggravated after PAS central committee member Mohd Zuhdi Marzuki's Whatsapp message was leaked online.

The message had put forward a scenario where PAS quits Pakatan to join forces with Umno, enticing Abdul Khalid and another PKR representative to defect to its side to form a new Selangor government.

The message was also peppered with racial undertones where Zuhdi suggested that an Umno-PAS coalition could allow it to "swat away" (jentik) complaints from non-Muslims, churches and DAP about the Bible confiscation.

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