

Pakatan indiscipline raises capability doubts

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Indiscipline among lower rung leaders of Pakatan Rakyat parties when it comes to going against or pre-empting decisions made by the Pakatan leadership council is causing people to question the coalition's ability to be an "alternative" to the ruling government.

International Islamic University (UIA) lecturer Maszlee Malik said in a statement today that PKR and PAS leaders have failed to "ensure discipline in the public media" from their members.

"This has made people become suspicious of whether they can become an alternative to BN," he said.

He said that people who had placed their trust on Pakatan in the last general elections and intend to place trust in the coalition in the next general elections have become "confused and disappointed" by the conduct of some Pakatan politicians, whom he said are "stripping one another bare" in front of the mass media.

"The crisis in Selangor is the strongest test for Pakatan as to whether the new politics they intend to bring is really solid," Maszlee said.

He said that while BN has a "master" to the coalition, being the Umno president, Pakatan obviously does not have "individuals or parties" that are dominant.

"The Pakatan presidential council is supposed to play this role (as master), but so often there are party leaders, especially from PAS, who would go against the presidential council decision," he said.

Since the menteri besar crisis sparked off in Selangor, PKR and PAS politicians have been trading barbs with their own party colleagues due to the rift.

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