

Hadi, DAP absent at P Kubor nominations

MalaysiaKini.com

Sept 14, 2014

As PAS geared for its third by-election since GE13, something was visibly different on nomination day in Pengkalan Kubor.

For one, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang was nowhere to be seen. Neither were DAP top guns.

Instead, PAS deputy president Mat Sabu took on the customary role of accompanying the Islamic party candidate Wan Rosdi Wan Ibrahim to the nomination centre at the Tumpat land office.

Hadi had previously accompanied PAS candidates on nomination day in previous by-elections in Sungai Limau, Kedah, and in Kuala Besut, Terengganu.

He was also absent when Wan Rosdi was announced as the Pakatan candidate for this polls.

When asked, Mat Sabu dismissed any talk of problems brewing within the party.

"It is not an issue. It is not a problem.

"The president will come this evening. Besides, we're busy with the party's muktamar (annual general assembly) which will take place in Johor," he said.

Hadi is to attend a ceramah at PAS Simpangan tonight, along with Mat Sabu and information chief Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.

Meanwhile also present this morning in the PAS delegation was ailing PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat (left), who was the previous menteri besar.

Pengkalan Kubor is a state constituency in Kelantan's northernmost tip.

Absence doesn't indicate rift

On DAP's absence, Mat Sabu dismissed any rift in the Pakatan coalition, instead said Chinese voters, who form DAP's core support group, only comprise small numbers in the constituency.

"There aren't many non-Malays here so DAP did not come. Perhaps they may come during the campaigning period," he said.

However, several PKR leaders lent their support, including vice president Tian Chua.

This is despite the resentment from the PKR grassroots about having to hand over the seat to PAS.

PKR, which fell in the constituency in the 2008 and 2013 general elections, surrendered the seat to PAS, which boast a stronger election machinery there, in the hope that Pakatan will be able to wrest the seat from BN.

The by-election comes amid strained relation in Pakatan because of disagreements over the Selangor menteri besar's post, sparking a prolonged crisis.

While PKR and DAP had concurred on PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail being the candidate to replace Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim who has lost majority support in the state assembly, PAS is adamantly against it.

Within the Islamic party too, there is a split; the central committee is largely in favour of Wan Azizah or her party deputy, Azmin Ali.

However, Hadi, backed by the party's conservative faction, overruled the central committee decision and proposed his own list which includes PAS members, even though PAS had insisted it did not intend to grab the position from PKR.

PKR: Absence not unusual

Meanwhile PKR vice president Shamsul Iskandar Mat Akin said it is not uncommon for the party's de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim and president Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to be absent from a nomination.

He said instead, it is party deputy president Azmin Ali's duty to represent the party at such events.

However, said Shamsul, due to party restructuring he and Chua are representing PKR at the nominations today.

"Usually it is the deputy who attends. But because the party elections are just over there is some restructuring as to who will be by-elections director," he explained.

He added that Anwar and Wan Azizah will be in Pengkalan Kubor to join the campaigning as it progresses.

