

## **PKR urges allies to cool it for a few weeks**

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**By Zikri Kamarulzaman**

PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli has urged Pakatan Rakyat to undergo a three-week "cooling-off period" in view of PAS' internal elections.

"The best way to preserve Pakatan is to have a cooling-off period. I hope there are no more exchanges.

"Let's have a cooling-off period for these two, three weeks so that we can reflect on the people's expectations and hopes," he said.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament lobby, Rafizi (photo) said the people still want Pakatan to function as a coalition that will replace BN in Putrajaya.

"Whatever the results may be after the PAS muktamar, I hope we don't lose the bigger picture on why we are together," he added.

Rafizi was commenting on the fears expressed by DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang that Pakatan will disintegrate in two weeks' time.

PAS is scheduled to hold its leadership elections from June 4 to 6, in which its president Abdul Hadi Awang's faction widely expected to win big.

Hadi's policies have often been the subject of criticism by DAP and PKR, most recently seen in the Selangor menteri besar crisis and the push for the implementation of hudud in Kelantan.

### **Pakatan is still here**

However, Rafizi believes this may not spell the end of Pakatan.

"Over the last six, seven years, Pakatan and the three parties have had so many of these calamities and these so-called Armageddon predictions.

"People say that with hudud, everything is going to go down under [...] but it is always not as bad as first speculated.

"Somehow, it was smoothened out, somehow it was mitigated and Pakatan is still here," Rafizi said.

Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad (photo) dismissed any talk of PAS leaving Pakatan.

"Leaving Pakatan has never been declared openly by anybody because we realise that the

rakyat and members wish to see Pakatan to carry on," he told reporters.

However, Khalid said, Pakatan leaders must get their act together.

"We all have to admit we can't (oust BN) if we do it on our own or are split up.

"So, the responsibility of leaders in all parties is to move towards reconciliation and stronger cooperation among the parties in Pakatan," Khalid added.

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