

PAS returns fire to DAP, will stay put in Pakatan

MalaysiaKini.com

June 1, 2015

By Abdul Rahim Sabri

PAS secretary-general Mustafa Ali lambasted the top leadership of the DAP today for attacking the party and its president Abdul Hadi Awang.

However, Mustafa went on to stress that none of the top leaders in PAS are in favour of leaving Pakatan Rakyat.

Neither, he added, would the issue of the Islamic party leaving the opposition coalition be raised in Hadi's policy speech at the coming PAS muktamar.

Mustafa said he has not heard of any resolution about PAS quitting Pakatan at the moment and that any talk of PAS leaving the coalition was mere speculation.

"This year is election year (for the party). It is normal in this social media age for it (the social media) to be harnessed and this has made the contest a little hotter. That I concede.

"But no one in the senior leadership wants to leave Pakatan Rakyat, and there is no pro-Pakatan or anti-Pakatan faction in the party," he told a press conference at the PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

On the attacks by DAP, Mustafa said the Pakatan ally appeared to portray that Malaysia must be saved from the implementation of hudud.

"It seems like hudud is an impending disaster," he said, adding that the continuous attacks on PAS came from DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng and his father, the party parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang who were portraying that Pakatan's fate depends on the results of the PAS leadership elections.

"Such statements are hasty, impatient. That's not right," he said.

'Don't be hasty', Guan Eng

He also slammed Guan Eng's challenge to PAS and its president Abdul Hadi Awang to leave the coalition.

"I'd advise him that this is not right. When talking tough, don't be hasty. If there are differences, we will resolve them. On hudud, it's been quite a while (that they have been opposing it)," Mustafa said.

In the PAS infighting ahead of the party polls, one faction, dubbed the ulama faction, is said to be close to Hadi while others are moderates who want closer cooperation with Pakatan.

However, Hadi and his supporters have often made statements that caused unease within Pakatan and the public, such as Hadi's statement that Islam permits Muslims to be angry with DAP for its opposition to hudud.

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