

PAS ready to take on Harapan Baru in GE14
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PAS today said it is ready to fight Gerakan Harapan Baru, a splinter group of the party, in the next general election.

"We cannot be on the same platform because they are a new party. Nevertheless, we are ready to fight them in the general election," PAS deputy spiritual leader Ahmad Yaakob was quoted as saying by Bernama.

Ahmad Yaakob (*photo*) told this to reporters at an Aidilfitri open house at his residence in Wakaf Baharu, Tumpat.

Last Monday, several PAS senior leaders from the party's group of moderates who lost in the recent party elections launched Harapan Baru which is seen as likely to replace PAS in the Pakatan Rakyat opposition pact that also has DAP and PKR as partners.

Harapan Baru is a precursor to a planned political party.

PAS has decided to sever ties with DAP after DAP secretary-general said the DAP had cut ties with PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang.

Harapan Baru has former PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu as its pro-tem chairman.

The others in the interim committee are former Selangor menteri besar Muhammad Taib; former PAS secretary-general Kamaruddin Jaafar; former PAS vice-president Salahuddin Ayub as well as former PAS senior leaders such as Khalid Samad, Mohd Hatta Ramli and Mujahid Yusof Rawa.

Asked whether disciplinary action would be taken against PAS leaders who joined the movement, Ahmad, who is the Kelantan menteri besar, said the party would "wait and see".

"We will let them do what they want to. (PAS) president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang has not taken any action against these leaders. We will wait and see.

"It may be a way that the president has adopted, not rushing into taking action," he said.

Ahmad also advised any PAS leader or member who wanted to join the movement to withdraw respectfully from PAS.

"If they want to be with Harapan Baru, they have to leave everything else. They have to be on their own, use their own branches, use their own money.

"In a democratic country, we welcome (the setting up of Harapan Baru), but do not remain in PAS in a state of uncertainty. Neither here nor there, that's a problem," he said.

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