

Rafizi: PKR to discuss new opposition coalition with PAS

MalaysiaKini.com

Sept 13th, 2015

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PKR will be meeting PAS representatives tomorrow to discuss details in relation to the new opposition coalition.

The party's secretary general, Rafizi Ramli, in confirming this, said that the meeting will be held at the PKR headquarters tomorrow at 2.30pm.

He said this at the sidelines of the Kongres Mahasiswa Kebangsaan in Ampang Jaya in Selangor.

Rafizi said his party president, Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (photo), had started sitting down with parties on the abovementioned matter, having met Parti Amanah Negara representatives last Wednesday and the DAP, soon.

"It's a process that we have to go through, sitting down and listening to their concerns. The number one thing that we need to impress on every party is of the need to achieve a one to one (fight)," he said, admitting that PKR has the burden to bring everyone together.

"My position is quite clear, although quite different from the other leaders, that PAS will find it very difficult to fit in.

"But doesn't mean that we must exclude them from the process. The process has to go through," he said.

Rafizi also confirmed that he was not informed if PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang will be attending the meeting tomorrow.

The first meeting between PAS and PKR had been attended by PAS deputy president Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.

Other options

Meanwhile, elaborating further on ensuring a one to one fight between the new opposition coalition and BN in the next general election, Rafizi said there are also other options, should PAS decide that it would not want to be in the new coalition.

"There can be a Pakatan where everyone is on board and the other model is that if PAS opts out, then there can always be an electoral cooperation between the new Pakatan and PAS to ensure one to one fights, whereby each party will concentrate on areas it can win.

"What that is most important is to defeat BN," he added.

The Pandan MP however has "full confidence" that the respective parties' leadership would see the importance of defeating BN.

"Whether PAS wants to fit in or not, I think it's very much a decision by PAS. What I can be very sure about is that the new coalition will not repeat the looseness of the last coalition.

"It'll be defined by a set of very clear policies, principles, even mechanism for decision making so I think any party who wants to join it must also be very clear of the commitment."

Commenting further on the parties setting boundaries and coming up with common agreements, Rafizi confirmed that Wan Azizah will be spelling out the key principles.

"Which, unless, parties agree to this very basic principles first, then I think it will be very difficult for parties who do not agree to fit in," he said.

Previously, PKR deputy president Azmin Ali (photo) had said that the party is of the opinion that PAS should be a part of a new opposition coalition.

However, the two other potential members of the new coalition had rejected the idea.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng had said that a coalition with both DAP and PAS on board would be untenable.

PAS and DAP had parted ways in June, after the latter objected to Abdul Hadi's move to table a private member's bill in Parliament that would pave way for the implementation of hudud law.

Founding member of the PAS splinter party Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah) Mohamed Hanipa Maidin had said that the Islamist party had no sincere appreciation for the political cooperation with both the DAP and PKR.