

'Without PAS and Malay votes, Pakatan Harapan cannot take Putrajaya'

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Not everyone is happy with Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's announcement on Wednesday that Penang is now known as Pakatan Harapan.

The new Pakatan, Lim (photo) had announced, comprises DAP, PKR and new kid on the block, Parti Amanah Negara, but minus former ally, PAS.

PAS Penang secretary Fadzil Mohd Kemi said Pakatan Harapan is not seen as promising what the people need, which is to see a strong opposition fact that can be an alternative to BN.

He said the coalition's decision to elevate PKR defacto leader Anwar Ibrahim as their prime minister if it seizes Putrajaya in the 14th national polls, is also "unrealistic".

It is unrealistic as Anwar is serving a five-year jail sentence for a sodomy conviction, and he will not be able to contest any polls until he finishes his jail term in February 2020, he added.

Anwar will also be barred from political office for one more term (or five years).

"Pakatan Harapan does not seem to have a charismatic leader to be prime minister," Fadzil told Malaysiakini.

"They also need to garner Malay votes to seize Putrajaya and without PAS, that effort will be unsuccessful," he said.

Fadzil said Malay grassroots reject Amanah because they are seen as traitors to PAS, and "Malays do not view traitors lightly".

Led by former deputy president Mohamed Sabu, a few key PAS leaders left when the progressive faction was routed in the party's internal polls in June.

Fadzil said in the coming polls which will be called by 2018, Amanah (photo) will be contesting the same seats as PAS and that would only lead to BN's victory.

He said DAP and PKR may be willing to offer one or two seats to Amanah, but that would be meaningless.

In 2013, DAP contested 19 seats and won all, PKR ran in 16 and won nine, while PAS put up candidates in five seats but managed to win only one - in Permatang Pasir.

Pakatan's action 'egoistical and reckless'

The state leader also said PAS did not suffer when 18 of its leaders left the party to form Amanah.

"Amanah leaders think that they have fractured PAS machinery when they left but actually, it has been replaced by many others in PAS.

"Nationwide, PAS has seen an increase of 10,000 members, with 1,000 in Penang," he added.

"If Pakatan Harapan continues with their egoistic and abruptly reckless attitude, the chance to defeat BN when BN is at its lowest point will be wasted," he stressed.

Fadzil expressed sadness at the current development in the opposition because he felt that much time has been used to nurture the relationship in Pakatan Rakyat.

He said the rakyat truly wanted to see change but it is a pity that "ego and recklessness" has now destroyed the opposition pact.

On the new Pakatan Harapan state government, Fadzil said the opposition's grassroots supporters, especially the Malays, may not be happy about this arrangement.

He said the grassroots Malays see the new pact as "traitors" to PAS.

The new opposition pact - without PAS - and the split within the party due to "traitors", when BN is going through its lowest point with various scandals, has angered the people, he added.

"This is bound to change their perception and how they would deal with the new opposition pact in the future," he said.

"The rakyat is disappointed with what has happened to Pakatan Rakyat (which was formed after the 2008 national polls) as the coalition was supposed to be an alternative to BN," he added.

"With Pakatan's break-up, the public is asking whether the opposition can bring about change in the country," he stressed.