

Sec-gen: PAS sticking with Pakatan... at least until GE13
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PAS today repeated its pledge of loyalty to the Pakatan Rakyat, saying they will stand by their promise to stay with the coalition till at least the 13th general election.

NONEParty secretary-general Mustafa Ali (left) said spiritual leader Nik Aziz Nik Mat's recent statement to welcome a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin does not mean they will work with Umno politically.

"Tok Guru (Nik Aziz) is also the Kelantan Menteri Besar, and there is nothing wrong for a Menteri Besar to meet a federal leader to discuss many issues," he said at a press conference at the PAS headquarters.

"There are many outstanding issues, but I don't think they will touch on political cooperation because PAS, be it the central leadership or its muktamar, is with Pakatan," Mustafa declared.

Mustafa was commenting on a statement by Nik Aziz last Wednesday that he was ready to meet with Muhyiddin on "any topic", preferably without the involvement of a third party.

Mustafa said PAS' policy on "engagement" covers three levels - political, state-to-federal governments and issues-based.

He said they have no issues about engaging the federal government if it relates to cooperation between the state and federal governments or issues of public concern such as reduced subsidies and Islamic affairs.

azlanBut Mustafa side-stepped questions on PAS' allegiance to Pakatan after the 13th general election, saying that it is not something they can predict.

"We don't know what will happen after the general election. We will say we stay but some other parties may go... At this point of time, we are with the Pakatan," he said.

When pressed for further comments on PAS' status post-general elections, he said "only Allah knows".

Mustafa pointed out that PAS has never broken its promises, citing their experiences in previous coalitions over the years.

"In the past, we were with Semangat 46 and even the BN. We never left those coalitions, we were taken out.

"Then in the Barisan Alternatif in 1999, it was DAP that left in 2001, though they came back in 2008," he said.

Mustafa admitted that membership in a political coalition is not "legally binding", but gave an assurance that PAS "will not betray our comrades".

"(A coalition) is based on trust. Our pledge was to stay with PR until the 13th GE, so we will stand by that," he said.

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