

Pakatan leaders to skirt thorny issues at convention  
Malaysiakini.com  
Disember 11, 2010

As expected, opposition party leaders at the Pakatan Rakyat convention to be held next Sunday appear determined to sidestep contentious issues.

hadi awang, anwar ibrahim, lim kit siang, pakatan leadersSpeaking to reporters at the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya today, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim and DAP advisor Lim Kit Siang (left to right respectively in photo) all agreed that high on the agenda will be "issues that we all have agreed on".

When asked if the issue of Islamic state will be brought up during the convention to be held in Penang, Anwar said that the coalition will only be discussing issues that has received consensus.

"We have discussed in the meeting earlier. Hadi was there, Mustafa Ali was there and they explained that the issue that will be focused on are common issues," said Anwar.

"Why should we bring up issues which have no mutual consensus? Our decision is based on consensus.

"The issue of martabatkan Islam is within the framework of the constitution and I as a Muslim, feel that we as Pakatan will move together on issues, agendas that we have consensus on," he said.

PAS' Islamic state agenda has historically been a thorny issue amongst Pakatan member parties, in particular the DAP who once broke ranks in the short-lived Barisan Alternatif on the matter.

'Guided by constitution'

On the issue of a Chinese deputy prime minister in the event Pakatan forms the federal government, Abdul Hadi deflected the issue by saying that the constitution will be the guide for the coalition.

"We have not yet won, or assumed power, so we cannot do it yet. Wwe cannot talk about it yet. We will do it based on the constitution," he said.

Instead, he says what Pakatan leaders will be exploring in the convention are common policies for education, the economy and society, as well as preparations for the next general election.

"We will explain our agenda in detail; our understanding of the constitution. We will strengthen the policies so that it is clear among the party leadership on every level in preparations for possible elections," said Anwar.

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/150572>

