

**Saari: Some PAS leaders keen on pact with Umno**  
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There are some PAS leaders who are seriously considering the possibility of a political alliance between the Islamic opposition party and its arch rival Umno.  
MCPX

This revelation comes from PAS Selangor information chief Saari Sungib amid denials from the party's top leadership that no such cooperation will take place.

saari sungibSpeaking to malaysiakini today, Saari said PAS deputy president Nasaruddin Mat Isa and the party's commissioner for Terengganu Mustapha Ali are solidly behind the idea.

"They believe that if PAS leaders can hold some key ministerial posts in the Umno-led federal government, it will be possible to initiate changes from within," he added.

This could deliver another blow to Pakatan Rakyat whose intra-party ties have been strained since the secret PAS-Umno talks were exposed by former Selangor menteri besar Dr Khir Mohd Toyo and Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Pakatan Rakyat is the opposition alliance comprising PKR, PAS and DAP. It's stalwart Anwar Ibrahim has also publicly stated that they could make up the numbers with the help of defectors from Barisan Nasional to take over the government.

Last week, Abdullah and Khir confirmed that Umno secretly made an offer to PAS to jointly rule Selangor just a few days after the March 8 polls. The post of MB was offered to Selangor PAS chief Hasan Ali.

However, PAS had rejected the proposal as they had already backed PKR treasurer general Khalid Ibrahim for the post.

Meanwhile, Saari said that it was Nasaruddin who instructed Hasan to meet with the Umno leaders.

"The meeting between them was given the green light by the central party leadership. It was Nasaruddin who instructed Hasan to meet with Umno leaders," he added.

### **PAS grassroots see red**

Saari also pointed out that the PAS grassroots were unhappy with the current meeting between the party and its political adversary.

"Anwar (Ibrahim) had tried to do the same thing (initiate changes) when he joined Umno but he failed. PAS also did the same thing when it joined Barisan Nasional in the past and failed to initiate any changes.

umno pas 180708"A lot of people are already injured by this meeting proposal and the grassroots are saying enough is enough," he added.

Saari said a battle of political strategies is taking place, with Umno "trying to sever the Pakatan bond" while PAS is trying to "infiltrate Umno and make changes from within."

In view of this, the PAS leader said he has urged PAS Selangor to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the issue.

"I have urged PAS Selangor deputy commissioner and central committee member Abdul Khalid Samad to hold an emergency meeting so that we can direct our input into solving this matter," he added.

### **Will DAP back PAS?**

As for the relationship between Pakatan parties, Saari claimed that the alliance is not perturbed by the current development despite what is being reported in the mainstream media.

"I spoke to (DAP leader and Selangor exco) Ronnie (Liu) and he told me that the alliance will not be torn apart by the PAS-Umno meetings and he understood why (they took place) and is willing to defend PAS on this issue," he said.

Karpal Singh DAP national chairperson Karpal Singh, however, has openly questioned PAS' loyalty to Pakatan.

Calling it an "act of bad faith", Karpal said DAP and PKR were not informed about the top-level talks.

"The assurance by PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang to Pakatan Rakyat partners that PAS will not abandon the alliance to join BN is not bona fide and not supported by past events," he was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times.