

Mukhriz Urges PAS To Reflect On Fatah-Hamas Reconciliation
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BESUT -- PAS should reflect on the peace pact between Hamas and Fatah at a time when Umno is extending a hand of friendship and unity, said Kedah Umno liaison deputy chief Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir.

He said the latest development on the Hamas-Fatah reconciliation should be a yardstick in assessing how far PAS and Umno was willing to cooperate to achieve unity among Muslims in the country.

Mukhriz said that a reconciliation between the two biggest parties representing the Malays was needed for the sake of the race, religion and country.

"The long-standing feud between Hamas and Fatah in Palestine is coming to an end. When is our (PAS and Umno) turn?

"PAS and Umno have a lot more in common compared to Hamas and Fatah. For this reason, there's no excuse for PAS to reject reconciliation, a topic which has been brought up before," he told reporters after opening the Besut Umno Youth delegates' meeting here today.

However, Mukhriz, who is Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister, was doubtful that PAS and Umno would reconcile in the near future as PAS leaders had divergent views on this matter.

According to him, some PAS leaders and members felt that crossing over to another party was akin to betraying the party.

"They've also made sarcastic remarks to the effect that Umno is the one who's craving reconciliation with PAS, and that the idea hasn't come from PAS," he said.

However, he expressed hope that PAS leaders and members would be able to see the bigger picture.

"A reconciliation between the two parties will be mutually beneficial," he said.

(Bernama)