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STOP BICKERING IN PUBLIC, SAYS ANWAR

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PH leaders should focus on improving people's lives, says PKR president

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PARTI Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has urged Pakatan Harapan leaders to focus on generating economic growth and improving the people's wellbeing instead of debating issues in public.

Anwar called on PH leaders, including those from PKR, to be the voice of reason and avoid making negative statements in the economic landscape.

"In the present situation, considering the high cost of living that continues to burden the people, I urge Pakatan Harapan leaders to focus on efforts to generate economic growth and improve the people's well-being," he said, in light of the spat between PH leaders.

"Public spats either between or in the party need to be stopped immediately. At the same time, I urge consensus within PH that can be strengthened through party channels.

"The people are watching us, and we have a limited opportunity to prove that PH is capable of changing the fate of the people and the nation."

Earlier, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) strategist Rais Hussin Mohamed Ariff warned that "friendly fire" within

the coalition could lead to a disastrous outcome.

His call came in light of public spats involving the call for Minister in the Prime Minister's Department P. Waytha Moorthy to resign over the Seaford Sri Maha Mariamman Temple riots, with the latest being between Youth and Sports Minister Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman and Penang Deputy Chief Minister II P. Ramasamy.

In a tweet yesterday, Rais said he was not concerned about politics, but the politicians.

He said they should put aside their egos and focus on serving the people.

"The spats and friendly fire in the Pakatan Harapan coalition can be disastrous," he tweeted.

"Of course, we can differ in our views. It must be celebrated. But pointing and launching missiles at each other is audaciously puerile."

Echoing Rais' message was DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, who said PH leaders must stop attacking other component parties without discussing and getting the approval of their own party.

In a post on his blog, Lim said he agreed with Rais because friendly fire could lead to negative perception and dreadful consequences for PH.

"While no one wants any restriction on freedom of speech and expression, which is the fundamental of a democratic society, it is also important to ensure that the cohesion, unity as well as common sense of purpose of the coalition is not undermined by unbridled speech and expression.

"PH leaders must cease and desist, and agree to the SOP (standard operating procedure) for

expression of criticism or attacks on leaders of other component parties."

Otherwise, he said, the PH Presidential Council should step in to work out a more satisfactory mechanism for leaders to express their concerns and dissatisfaction over the performance of their peers from other component parties.

"This way, the objective of PH in building a New Malaysia is not compromised," he said.

Anwar's cautionary message for politicians against washing their dirty linen in public came on the heels of other spats.

On Dec 17, PKR Central Committee member Latheefa Koya accused the party's leadership of practising nepotism, cronyism and favouritism following changes to the appointment of the party's state chiefs by Anwar.

Two days later, PKR leader Rafizi Ramli and founder of data analytics firm Invoke claimed that the federal government's approval rating had dropped, with news of an equally unflattering rating for Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Rafizi's view was supported by Kedah PKR chairman Datuk Johari Abdul, who lashed out at Dr Mahathir's purported lack of direction after winning the 14th General Election.

While Dr Mahathir had rubbished Rafizi's claim, PH's communications and mobility committee member Datuk Seri Khairuddin Abu Hassan yesterday dropped a bombshell by claiming that a plot was being devised by disgruntled quarters, who had failed to secure any position in PH, to topple Dr Mahathir.