

Pas rejected Muhyiddin's 'big tent' offer, says Hadi

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MARANG: Pas has rejected any cooperation with opposition parties under a "big tent" initiative to face the 15th General Election (GE15).

Pas president Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang said he was aware of such an initiative by Perikatan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on a cooperation among the opposition.

However, he said Pas rejected the offer tabled by Muhyiddin, who is also Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president, in their previous meeting.

"Pas has been informed and is aware of this (big tent initiative) but it's not something we agree with and have rejected.

"We had a discussion, it's not something we kept secret. Muhyiddin, in the meeting, had accepted Pas' view," he said after delivering a sermon at the Masjid Rusila here yesterday.

Hadi, who is also Marang member of parliament, was responding to a statement by Melaka Pas commissioner Datuk Kamarudin Sedik, who said Muhyiddin had been forthcoming and honest of a possible cooperation with Pas in GE15.

Kamarudin was quoted as say-

ing that it would not be wise for Pas to enter such a cooperation if it also involved parties such as DAP and PKR.

Hadi also rejected claims that Pas did not want GE15 to be held soon due to its fear of losing.

Instead, he said its call for GE15 to be held only after the 14th Parliament session ends in June next year was to enable the government to focus on resolving the various issues faced by the people.

Hadi rejected allegations that the party was keen on delaying GE15 in a bid to cling to power.

He said a group of "power-hungry people", who had been consistently lobbying for Parliament to be dissolved to pave the way for GE15, was to be blamed.

"Pas was involved in a number of recent by-elections out of necessity and not because we wanted to support some parties who are out for power."

He said Pas was used to the ebb and flow of politics and had also experienced losing a number of seats in elections.

Pas, he said, was ready to accept any outcome, including defeat, in GE15.