

GRS is still in the game

Sabah ruling coalition may not need to go solo in polls

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TAWAU: Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) is not out of the picture yet when it comes to political cooperation, despite the alliance between Pakatan Harapan and Barisan Nasional, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister, who is also Pakatan chairman, said he had discussed the matter with Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor where they talked about continuing the collaboration between the two coalitions.

"I thank Hajiji for his views that collaboration between Pakatan and GRS should be enhanced.

"On negotiations between GRS and Barisan, I leave it to them to discuss if they want to work together.

"But for Pakatan, we agree to leave (the matter) to Sabah led by Hajiji to negotiate and find a solution forward," he said when met by reporters at Tawau Airport yesterday.

On whether GRS, Pakatan and Barisan could work together in the upcoming state election, Anwar said while he could only speak on behalf of Pakatan, he is optimistic.

On May 9, Pakatan and Barisan announced their agreement to cooperate in the upcoming Sabah state election, a decision that was reached during a leadership



State matters:

Anwar paying a courtesy call on Musa at Istana Seri Kinabalu in Kota Kinabalu.
- Bernama

meeting between Anwar and Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Responding to this, Hajiji said GRS would contest solo in the state polls if the two coalitions proceed with their collaboration.

GRS consists of eight parties - Parti Gagasan Rakyat Sabah, Parti Bersatu Sabah, Sabah Progressive Party, Sabah STAR, United Sabah National Organisation, Parti Cinta Sabah, Liberal Democratic Party and Parti Harapan Rakyat Sabah.

Earlier, Anwar said he did not discuss the possible dissolution of the Sabah State Assembly during his meeting with Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Musa Aman.

He said the decision to dissolve the state assembly rests solely with the governor and the chief minister.

"The meeting focused primarily on Sabah's development and strengthening cooperation between the state and federal governments," he said, Bernama reported.

Anwar said the discussions covered various sectors, including oil, and took into account input from state leaders with the aim of addressing key concerns and identifying areas for improved ment.

The meeting marked Anwar's first courtesy call on Musa since his appointment as the Yang di-Pertua Negeri.

Speculation of a possible dissolution of the state assembly had intensified ahead of the meeting between Anwar and Musa.