

LEADERSHIP QUESTIONED

'MUHYIDDIN IS NO LONGER RELEVANT'

Bersatu president has lost touch with grassroots, says suspended supreme council member

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CRACKS within Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia have widened after another party leader openly questioned Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's leadership.

Suspended supreme council member Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal described the Bersatu president as "no longer relevant", claiming he had lost touch with grassroots members and that the party's electoral performance had been declining under his leadership.

Wan Fayhsal, the former Bersatu Youth chief, is the second party leader after Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah to call for a change at the top, citing growing dissatisfaction within the party.

He said feedback from voters

during the Melaka and Johor state elections showed that Bersatu's campaign strategy, which focused too heavily on Muhyiddin as an individual, had failed to resonate with the public.

"I was the one who said in an Armada (Bersatu Youth) meeting that Abah (Muhyiddin) is no longer relevant.

"I said it in the meeting, not in public. I was on the ground, I spoke to voters and they told me this.

"The campaign focused too much on the individual rather than the issues. It didn't work," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby.

He claimed that Bersatu's internal problems had worsened because Muhyiddin refused to listen to differing opinions and instead relied on a small circle of advisers.

Wan Fayhsal also criticised the decision to name Muhyiddin as Perikatan Nasional's (PN) prime ministerial candidate, calling it a misjudgment that angered party allies and risked offending the palace.

Wan Fayhsal also accused the party leadership of creating a "culture of fear" to silence dissenting voices.

"They are using instruments of fear to intimidate anyone with different opinions. Those who criticise for the sake of improvement are punished.

"When issues are raised internally and ignored, what choice do we have but to speak up?" he said.

The *New Straits Times* has reached out to Muhyiddin's aide for comment on Wan Fayhsal's remarks.

On Monday, Saifuddin had also urged Muhyiddin to step down as Bersatu president, saying the former prime minister had lost the leadership qualities he once possessed.

On the same day, PN announced that Saifuddin had been dropped as Pahang PN chairman.

PN secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, in a statement on Monday, said Saifuddin would be replaced by Pas deputy president Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.



Wan Ahmad
Fayhsal Wan
Ahmad Kamal