

PAS offers 10-point 'Negara Berkebakikan' agenda
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By G Manimaran

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 — PAS will signal its readiness to form a federal government by unveiling its Negara Berkebakikan (Benevolent State) policy this afternoon.

The document promises a 10-point agenda to be delivered in its first term in power should it win the coming general election with Pakatan Rakyat (PR) partners, DAP and PKR.

The main agenda for the Negara Berkebakikan policy is to install a fair and clean government by reviewing the Constitution to enshrine the separation of powers, guarantee free and fair elections and rebuild institutions such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, the Attorney-General's Chambers and the police.

The second point in the document, obtained by The Malaysian Insider, stresses that PAS will push for a bigger role for civil society and social businesses by reducing taxes and excise duty and setting up a National Dialogue Council.

PAS said the Negara Berkebakikan, which it insists differs from a welfare state, will restructure development priorities so that economic growth will not be measured by construction projects and elaborate infrastructure, but sustainability.

"We will have a mechanism that will add to the supply of goods by opening the market to goods from developing countries and widening the supply chain," said the document, which will be launched by PAS President Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang (picture) in Shah Alam later.

Other steps include proper emphasis on eradication of poverty programmes to help the 40 per cent of Malaysians with a household income of RM1,500 and below.

PAS promises to give children from rural households with an income below RM1,500 and urban families with an income below RM2,500 free entry to public universities.

It also promises economic success and life assurance for second and third generation FELDA settlers through the distribution of plantation land.

PAS also says it will build more low-cost and affordable housing and create houses for rent under local councils in big cities with minimum rental for families who need a transition home before buying their own.

The party also promises to create a special fund for full-time housewives under the husband's Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to safeguard single mothers who do not have a stable form of income after divorce or spouse's death.

Another initiative is to review the wage structure in the public sector to shrink the gap between the public and private sectors and to raise the cost of living allowance to RM500.

It also wants to institute the use of gold as an alternative bartering tool in trade and

commerce transactions.

The Islamic party launches the document following its president's policy speech on the Negara Berkeadilan concept in June, as part of its preparations for the 13th General Elections.

PAS formed PR along with DAP and PKR after Election 2008 where the pact denied Barisan Nasional (BN) its customary two-thirds majority of Parliament and five state governments.

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