

DAP Asks Opposition Pact Members To Keep Mum On Seat Negotiations
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14 (Bernama) -- The DAP today advised leaders and members of the opposition PKR-DAP-PAS pact against making any public statement on the parties' ongoing negotiations on allocation of seats for the next general election.

DAP vice-chairman and election bureau chairman Tan Kok Wai said the opposition pact leaders and members should adhere to the joint resolution at the Pakatan Rakyat leadership retreat on July 19, 2011, to negotiate seat allocations internally and to refrain from openly discussing or criticising any coalition member.

"DAP members are reminded that any disagreement that cannot be resolved at the state leadership level will be referred to the PR national leadership for resolution.

"In this regard, the DAP leaders and members are advised to refrain from making any public statement which may be misconstrued to mean that the PR coalition members - PAS, PKR and DAP - are involved in a spat over seat negotiations," he said in a statement.

He said it was imperative that all coalition members upheld and promoted the spirit of unity, cooperation and trust on which the coalition was based.

"At this point, discussions on seat allocation in the various states are still ongoing and have yet to be concluded. However, positive strides are being made in finalising the seat arrangements among the PR coalition members for the next general election," he added.

He said the PR leadership would make the necessary announcement at the appropriate time once the seat negotiation process had been finalised.

The opposition pact's seat negotiations hit a snag in at least five states as their respective state leaders scrambled to resolve the differences, resulting in a much-publicised row among their respective state leaders over the past few days.

The opposition pact partners are still unable to finalise the negotiations over seat allocation in Johor, Pahang, Sarawak, Perak and Kedah where the leaders have asked for more time to resolve differences, mostly over overlapping claims.

In the 2008 general election, the opposition pact secured 82 parliamentary seats, with PKR emerging as the largest opposition party in Parliament with a total of 31 seats. The DAP had 28 and PAS, 23.

In terms of states, the opposition pact wrested control of four states -- Selangor, Perak, Penang and Kedah -- and retained Kelantan.

However, seven PKR MPs quit the party after the election and became independent elected representatives while the Barisan Nasional (BN) took control of Perak after three state assemblymen (two from PKR and one from the DAP) quit their parties and became independent elected representatives friendly to the BN.

In the Sarawak state election in April this year, PKR and DAP locked horns in several key seats, which also resulted in a much-publicised row between the leaders of the two parties.

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