

**PAS: Kedah steering panel to ensure poll pledges kept**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**March 12 , 2012**  
**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 — PAS leaders have denied its steering committee would usurp the powers of any Pakatan Rakyat (PR) administration, saying today it would only advise on the delivery of promises made in Election 2008.

The Islamist party came under fire from Barisan Nasional (BN) and its media after forming the panel following the crisis in Kedah where two state executive councillors (exco) had refused to be part of Datuk Seri Azizan Abu Bakar's government.

Its senior leaders explained the committee was only to "monitor the implementation of our manifesto" for all PR states, not just Kedah.

"It is not executive, just advisory. It won't take over the administration of any PR state," deputy president Mohamad Sabu told a press conference.

"These are our promises so we must fulfil them," added secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali.

Mohamad, better known as Mat Sabu, also said the committee was not new but has existed since 1990, when PAS took over Kelantan.

"Sometimes it is active, sometimes it is not," he said.

Although Mohamad admitted that the committee was reactivated because of the recent split in Kedah PAS, he said "the committee is there to advise on what must be done based on the principle that we must meet the promises made to the public."

He cited a flap early this year when Azizan said he was willing to be sacked for defending state-owned Kolej Universiti Insaniah's suspension of five students last May despite PR's stand that the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA) must be repealed to give undergraduates and academics more freedom.

"In matters like this, I think there was a misunderstanding. But we hold to PR's stand," Mohamad said.

The PAS central committee was forced to initiate peace talks between Kedah Mentri Besar Azizan and the two rebel excos earlier this month after the situation threatened to ignite an internal revolt in the party.

Datuk Phahrolrazi Mohd Zawawi and Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh, who are also deputy state PAS chiefs, are set to return to the exco after initially rejecting their reappointments.

Mustafa also announced today the steering committee would be chaired by Pengkalan Chepa MP Datuk Abdul Halim Rahman. Other members include Mustafa, Tumpat MP Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar, Perak PAS election director Asmuni Awi and Johor PAS chief Datuk

Mahfodz Mohamed.

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