

PAS leadership heads to Kedah for showdown talks
The Malaysian Insider
March 02, 2012
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 2 — PAS's entire central leadership will meet its Kedah leaders this weekend to solve the crisis engulfing the state administration the Islamic party leads.

With no end in sight in the feud between Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak (picture) and his deputies, PAS decided last night that its whole central working committee will head to Alor Star from tomorrow to Sunday to resolve the situation.

"We heard all voices and view this seriously. PAS's central leaders will have a dialogue with the entire state leadership, including its Ulama Council, state assemblymen and Youth leaders to take all views," deputy president Mohamad Sabu told reporters last night.

He had led the emergency central working committee meeting which only ended after midnight.

The meeting was held after both Kedah PAS deputy commissioners Datuk Phahrolrazi Nawawi and Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh rejected their reappointments to the state executive council (exco), leaving just eight instead of 10 being sworn in on Tuesday.

Vice-president Salahuddin Ayub also said last night all central committee members would attend the meeting with Kedah PAS this weekend with "both sides" to reach a final solution to the matter.

The Kubang Kerian MP also said that neither Azizan nor his two renegade deputies attended last night's meeting.

Phahrolrazi said yesterday he refused the appointment as he could no longer work with Azizan and their differences had reached a "critical" level.

However, Phahrolrazi suggested he could be persuaded to rejoin the exco on certain conditions but refused to disclose what they were.

The PAS leadership said earlier this week it wanted all 10 current Kedah state excos sworn in for the 2012 term.

The Islamist party's secretary-general, Datuk Mustafa Ali, confirmed rumours that Phahrolrazi and Ismail had declined to accept their re-appointments, but stressed that the matter was only a "technical issue."

He said that PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had met with Azizan as well as the two excos on February 17, where they had explained to him the "difficulties" in continuing their duties.

The Malaysian Insider

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