

PAS says Kedah crisis over, 'amicable solution' found
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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 — PAS said today it was confident the crisis involving Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak and two state executive councillors (excops) is now resolved, and that both parties have agreed on an "amicable solution."

The Malaysian Insider understands that an understanding was reached after a five-hour meeting between Azizan, Datuk Phahrolrazi Mohd Zawawi, Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh and the PAS national leadership at the Kedah MB's official residence in Seri Mentaloon, Alor Setar last night.

The meeting started at 9.30pm yesterday and ended around three this morning, PAS organ Harakahdaily reported.

"An amicable solution has been reached... (we) believe that both parties have come to an understanding," PAS central working committee member Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad told The Malaysian Insider.

"But I cannot divulge anything... all will be clarified during the special press conference on the matter tomorrow."

PAS will hold a press conference tomorrow at its headquarters in Jalan Raja Laut here at 11am to reveal details of the solution to end the Kedah impasse.

It is understood that last night's meeting was divided into two parts, the first session being a four-way dialogue between PAS vice-president Salahuddin Ayub, the two state excops and Azizan.

The second, later session between the Islamist party's central working committee and the state liaison committee, was personally chaired by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

The Kedah government has been in disarray ever since both state PAS deputy commissioners Phahrolrazi and Ismail rejected their reappointments to the state executive council, leading just eight being sworn in last Tuesday instead of the usual 10.

One of the excops, Phahrolrazi, had said he refused the appointment as he could no longer work with Azizan and that their differences had reached a "critical" level.

He said yesterday he had been barred by the party from making any more statements on the current crisis in the state administration.

The Islamist party's secretary-general, Datuk Mustafa Ali, previously 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 Abdul Hadi 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.

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