

**PAS: Kedah duo told to rejoin state exco**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 5 — PAS's central leadership has ordered its two rebel Kedah elected representatives to rejoin the state's executive council, calling an end to the ongoing administrative impasse in the PAS-led government.

The party also decided that Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak, who is at the centre of the crisis, should proceed in his duties as Kedah menteri besar.

PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali (picture) told a press conference today that the duo — Datuk Phahrolrazi Mohd Zawawi and Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh — have been "verbally" informed of the decision but that they have yet to formally notify the party of their acceptance.

"But we are optimistic they will do so," Mustafa said, pointing out that both men had earlier said they would leave the matter up to their party's central leadership to decide.

The Islamist party has also decided to activate a steering committee tasked to monitor and offer input to any PAS-led government or any entity to which its leaders are attached, he added.

"This decision was unanimously accepted by all PAS central leadership members," he said.

Today's announcement was made following a five-hour meeting between Azizan, Phahrolrazi and the PAS national leadership at the Kedah MB's official residence in Seri Mentaloon, Alor Star on Saturday night.

Mustafa, who chaired today's press conference with PAS vice-presidents Datuk Mahfuz Omar and Salahuddin Ayub, would not divulge further details on the meeting but repeatedly told reporters that he was "optimistic" both Phahrolrazi and Ismail would accept the party's decision.

He said the party leadership would leave it to the Kedah administration to decide when to hold the swearing-in of the duo.

The leader also refused to state if Azizan's run-in with both men was due to personality issues or clashes over seat negotiation for the coming polls.

"Insyallah, this was the result of yesterday's meeting and discussion, so insyallah, we are confident that the issue has been resolved," he said.

Mustafa laughed when it was suggested that Phahrolrazi was unhappy with the party leadership's decision, expressing mirth that the reporters present today were purportedly more informed of the situation that he was.

"I don't know (if Phahrolrazi is happy)," he said.

He added that the party leadership would determine the members of the steering committee during its coming meeting on March 12.

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