

Hadi says voters will decide who is Pakatan's choice for PM job
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By Syed Jaymal Zahiid

SHAH ALAM, April 8 – PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said today that voters would ultimately decide who gets to be prime minister if Pakatan Rakyat (PR) wins Election 2013.

The former Terengganu menteri besar said the pact would first focus on winning the upcoming polls before discussing on the matter.

Hadi also refused to state if he felt he was a suitable candidate for the country's top post, saying the issue would be determined by the voters.

"This thing we need to go through the democratic process. I would not say more on this, we should be ensuring the victory of all our candidates first," he told reporters after giving a talk on the party's "welfare state" push here.

Hadi (picture) added that whoever from PR becomes prime minister has to be accepted by voters and noted that this included non-Muslim voters.

The president of the Islamist party also emphasised that the candidate must be a Muslim and also accepted by the King.

"What is important is that the candidate is accepted by the people including non-Muslims. We also have a King. The candidate must be accepted by both the people and the king," he said.

The pact had previously agreed that the post should be given to Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

PR parties have repeatedly had to reaffirm their endorsement of Anwar as prime minister-designate to deflect criticisms from their political foes in Barisan Nasional (BN) that they were unable to achieve consensus on numerous issues.

In a recent interview with the Financial Times, Anwar admitted that the coming 13th general election may be his last shot at power, saying that he may quit politics if PR fails in its bid to claim Putrajaya.

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