

**PAS to Umno... let's talk national issues, that's all**  
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PAS has responded to Umno's gestures for cooperation, saying the Islamic party is only willing to talk with Umno on national issues affecting the people.

Speaking to The Malaysian Insider, PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali (pic) rejected any political collaboration with Umno, saying the party leadership had made it clear that it would not entertain any attempt to initiate a partnership with Umno.

"However, we have no problems if they want to discuss national issues such as eradicating poverty," he told The Malaysian Insider when contacted today.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin suggested that both PAS and Umno work together, saying the partnership was necessary to address bigger issues facing the Muslim community.

The Umno deputy president said Muslim unity would require political stability, and this included addressing issues with the opposition Islamic party.

Muhyiddin also claimed that Muslim political leaders have called for more cooperation between both parties, despite PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's outright rejection of any efforts to have Umno and PAS working together.

PAS strategist and central committee member, Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad reminded that party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had vowed that PAS will not abandon its Pakatan Rakyat partners.

Dzulkefly, however, echoed Mustafa, saying PAS is willing to discuss with Umno on issues such as corruption, government transparency and judiciary.

Talks of collaboration to foster Muslim unity have been refuted by PAS loyalists since 2008 and Umno has been accused of using such talks to mask its unity government plan.

PAS's Shah Alam Member of Parliament Khalid Samad, meanwhile, dismissed Umno's offer to work together as a political ploy.

"As long as Umno remains Umno, there will not be any room for cooperation," he said at a Selangor PAS press conference in Shah Alam today.

"They claim they want to be friends but then will knock our heads. So how are we to believe them?" – September 18, 2013.

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