

Challenging days ahead for Pakatan, says PAS MP
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A PAS lawmaker has called on the Pakatan Rakyat leadership to move forward after the Selangor menteri besar crisis which had threatened to tear apart the six-year-old coalition, saying that what lay beyond the debacle was more "challenging".

Datuk Mujahid Yusof Rawa, who is a PAS central committee member, said the MB crisis showed that Pakatan had failed to manage the conflict well and had caused the people to lose confidence in them.

"The issue was dragged, put out to the public without any reason. It clearly showed we do not know how to handle conflict among ourselves.

"But now that the MB issue is solved in a way, we have come to a crucial time. That is, what lies ahead for Pakatan after this? The challenges we are to face in the coming days will be beyond the MB crisis," he told The Malaysian Insider today.

The Parit Buntar MP had earlier said in a statement that Pakatan had challenging days ahead of them and called on the coalition leaders to continue with its national agenda and refrain from politicking which had derailed them from their main objective.

Yesterday, PAS announced its decision to stand with its Pakatan allies and agreed that Selangor MB Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim should be replaced as he was no longer a PKR member.

PAS, however, proposed that PKR also nominate Azmin Ali for the top post, alongside Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

The Selangor menteri besar impasse had threatened to break the PR coalition following PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's open support for Khalid despite PKR's decision to remove him from the position.

"This whole issue has had a negative impact on Pakatan's effectiveness. And the people are observing and scrutinising us... how we solve our problems and all that," Mujahid said.

"The underlying matter is how the three parties (DAP, PKR and PAS) can stand and defend their consensus together to compete with Barisan Nasional. They must show a united stand."

Mujahid said that the Selangor crisis had set a precedent in the Pakatan coalition in that the menteri besar post was no longer under the jurisdiction of one party.

"Now, other parties will have a say and can create a problem when they don't agree with the choice of another party.

"Because of what happened in Selangor, in the future, others can say they too want to interfere in the MB selection."

The Selangor issue has also shown that any one party in the coalition should not impose its agenda on another without discussing it properly, the PAS parliamentarian said.

"It should be openly debated and discussed before any decision is taken. We must come to an agreement and the three parties should be able to compromise," he added.

Mujahid is believed to be referring to PKR's "Kajang Move" which was carried out earlier this year to replace Khalid with the party's de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

However the plan was scuppered after Anwar's sodomy trial was "speeded up" and the Court of Appeal found him guilty of a sodomy charge involving his aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan.

Anwar was then replaced by his wife and PKR president Dr Wan Azizah, who was later endorsed by the party to take over as MB.

Khalid, who refused to step down as MB, was sacked from PKR on August 9 after defying the party's orders to make way for Dr Wan Azizah.

Meanwhile, Mujahid also said that the debacle in Selangor has shown a trend among the younger leaders in all three parties who want to get out of the "old way" of doing things.

"The top leadership from PAS, PKR and DAP are carrying baggage from their history. And sometimes, when they bring this baggage together, Pakatan seems ineffective.

"This historical baggage has an impact on their performance and they should not be hindered by the weight of it. The young ones do not have this baggage," Mujahid said. – August 18, 2014.

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