

PAS to link up with PKR, not new Pakatan?

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By FMT Reporters

No decision yet on whether to join opposition coalition but agreement reached on PKR cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR: Although discussions are continuing among opposition parties to form a new coalition in Parliament, it appears that the Islamist party PAS will not be involved.

The party has yet to decide whether to be part of the coalition, however a party official was quoted as saying that PAS would continue its cooperation with Parti Keadilan Rakyat.

PKR is at the centre of talks on the new coalition, after the DAP fell out with PAS over the Islamic party's plans to enforce hudud criminal penalties in Kelantan, and declared an end to the Pakatan Rakyat alliance.

PKR leader Anwar Ibrahim and deputy president Azmin Ali have both said PAS remained a member of the Pakatan Rakyat. However, liberal PAS dissidents having broken away to form Parti Amanah Negara.

Last week it was reported that PAS would remain in the opposition, in the face of reports that it was cooperating with Umno.

PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang, however, has rebuffed moves to bring PAS and Amanah together in the new coalition. He said recently that the party would not work with "traitors".

PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli has said that PKR, DAP and Amanah will proceed with the forming of the new coalition but would leave the door open for PAS.

"We are willing to accept PAS with the condition that our partners accept them too," he said.

However a senior PAS leader was reported to have said: "We will continue working with PKR but will not be involved in Pakatan Rakyat 2.0," according to Malaysian Insider. The report did not name the PAS leader.

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