

Avoid electing Pasma, Anwarinas to top posts, says analyst

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KUALA LUMPUR, PAS' top leadership should be a mixture of the ulama and professionals, but members should avoid electing one from the Anwarinas and Pasma factions, political analysts warned.

Pasma is a Pakatan Rakyat-friendly non-governmental organisation, comprising mostly PAS members. It was formed in August last year to strengthen PAS' position in PR.

Anwarinas is the term used to describe PAS members who would support anything that Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim did even though it went against the party's stance.

Dr Shamsul Adabi Mamat, a professor at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, said the two factions had tainted the Islamist party's image by prioritising the relationship within Pakatan Rakyat, instead of focussing on the party's main agenda.

This, he explained, was done when these groups openly opposed the position taken by president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang on various issues, including during the Selangor Menteri Besar crisis.

In the tussle for the post last year, Hadi had openly backed the then MB, Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, and opposed the idea of PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail succeeding the former.

"These minority groups that have been trying to dominate the party are causing friction among other members, making the whole party appear unstable and reeling from internal conflicts.

"This upcoming muktamar, PAS members have to make sure that the situation changes and focus on making PAS a party without controversies.

"To achieve this, PAS has to elect a leader with a strong religious background and maybe a deputy president who is from the professional group and is free from controversies," he told The Rakyat Post.

He reminded that PAS' main cause had always been about the implementation of Islamic principles in the country's governance, and that its relationship with DAP and PKR was just temporary to help the Opposition coalition topple the Barisan Nasional.

Political analyst Dr Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani, on the other hand, said that the result of the party elections next month would see if PAS' dynamics and cause would remain the same or change completely.

He said if the ulama faction won the top posts with a big majority and Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang retained his presidency, hudud would remain its main agenda.

However, if those below him were not from the same camp, the focus would be more on remaining with PR.

“Pasma and Anwarinas have been fighting to become the more dominant faction in the party, but PAS’ system has always centred on the ulama.

“Even Hadi, despite the backlash he’s been getting from other component parties, still has massive support from most of the party members.”

PAS’ 61st annual muktamar will take place from June 4 to June 6.

Hadi, Ahmad Awang and Datuk Husam Musa are in the running for the presidency post while Mohamad Sabu, Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah and Datuk Husam Musa are vying for the deputy president post.

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