

Hadi's endorsement of Najib no indication of PAS-Umno unity govt, says analyst
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By G. Surach

KUALA LUMPUR, PAS' ulama faction will continue to be the core of the Islamist party's struggle and is expected to pit its will against any party that denounces its ambitions, say political analysts.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) political analyst Prof Dr Samsu Adabi Mamat said the support shown by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak could not immediately be construed as support for a PAS-Umno unity government.

"Since the beginning of PAS, the core structure of the party's leadership has always been the same, where we have the Mursyidul Am (spiritual leader), party president and the Syura Ulama Council.

"While the party has gone through many phases, including its short-lived phase of unity government with Umno in the late 1970s and current factionalism involving the ulama and the liberals, the party's tripartite core remains as it is and will continue to do so even after the party elections conclude next month."

Elaborating further, Samsu Adabi said that the only form of cooperation that they would seek with others is one that will benefit their core struggle, which is hudud and Islam on the long run and temporary alliances that seek to expand its political mileage.

"At the moment, the PAS leadership is vigorously championing hudud. Even if it costs them a place in Pakatan Rakyat, I believe they will continue to do so.

"The question of a partnership with Umno will not arise unless Umno votes in favour of hudud when it is tabled in Parliament."

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) associate professor Dr Sivamurugan Pandian said Abdul Hadi's call was not an attempt to be friendly with Umno and Najib.

"He is probably expressing his democratic views honestly, showing appreciation to the federal government for the assistance given to the PAS-led Kelantan state government during the floods early this year.

"It is too early to speculate on any PAS-Umno ties over his latest comments.

"The Kelantan government and federal government are working together through a joint committee to assist and provide relief for flood victims in the state.

"It is a issue which sees both parties working together."

Today's reactions came after Najib found an unlikely supporter in Abdul Hadi, after the latter backed him to continue as Prime Minister

According to The Star, Abdul Hadi said Najib should continue to serve as the Prime Minister because he was elected via a fair system.

"He should not succumb to pressure and should be allowed to solve the problems he is facing.

"He should be given a chance to finish his term," the Marang lawmaker was quoted as saying in Kuala Terengganu yesterday.

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