

Pakatan crisis inevitable because Hadi never wanted Anwar as PM, Kit Siang suggests
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 — If Pakatan Rakyat (PR) had won Election 2013, the pact would have faced a crisis then because Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang never supported Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister, Lim Kit Siang said today.

The DAP veteran, in continuing the on-going stand-off between his party and PAS, said this was another reason why it made little sense that the Islamist party's president was still insisting that PR still exists.

He pointed out that even before PAS's decision on June 6 to cut ties with the DAP, the pact had already failed to function as a cohesive unit because of Hadi.

“For a year Pakatan Rakyat had existed in name but not in fact, because Hadi had violated the two basic and bedrock Pakatan Rakyat principles – the PR Common Policy Framework and the consensus operational principle that the agreement of all three PR component parties are needed for any PR motion to be made,” he said.

“In fact, the Pakatan Rakyat crisis might have come even earlier if Pakatan Rakyat had been successful in winning the majority of the parliamentary seats in the 13GE two years ago as Hadi had never accepted Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as the PR candidate to be Prime Minister of Malaysia.

“With such a background, I find it astounding that Hadi could now claim that Pakatan Rakyat is not dead, when the PR Secretariat had for the past year find it almost impossible to fix a meeting when the PAS President could attend,” Lim added.

He added that though PR's so-called death is “grim”, there was no reason to be gloomy about the future of the political front.

Last year, PKR's Rafizi Ramli revealed that his party only kept Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim as Selangor menteri besar a second term after PAS refused to endorse Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) prime minister candidate.

With little political baggage, Khalid was the least objectionable choice to PAS, PKR or DAP with their patchy political cooperation before Election 2008, Rafizi said then.

He added that PAS's refusal to back Anwar underlined the division within the fledgling pact with none of the three component parties able to reach a consensus on candidates for key leadership positions.

Instead, Rafizi said a PAS delegation consisting of Hadi, PAS former deputy president Mohamad Sabu and the Islamist party's influential cleric Datuk Haron Din met with Anwar and told the de facto PR leader they wanted Umno's Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to be prime minister if PR succeeded in taking Putrajaya.

On June 6, PAS on confirmed its decision to sever ties with DAP while still remaining in PR with PKR, after its motion to do so was approved without debate.

On Tuesday, Lim declared the “death” of PR and blamed Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang for the coalition’s demise, saying the PAS president’s recent actions as well as the Islamist party’s decision at its congress to sever ties with DAP meant PR’s Common Policy Framework was broken.

A day later, PKR weighed in on the matter by saying that the pact will no longer function formally as a coalition, following “hasty” decisions by partners DAP and PAS.

PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said, however, that she hoped the spirit of cooperation between the three parties in Selangor and Penang would continue – despite the recent developments.

PAS leaders have since issued conflicting remarks on their party’s position. Yesterday, Hadi insisted that the pact was still intact, saying the DAP could not make unilateral decisions on its survival.

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