

Up To PKR To Determine Pakatan's Fate, Say Analysts

Bernama

June 16, 2015

By Mohd Hisham Abdul Rafar and Erda Khursyiah Basir

KUALA LUMPUR, (Bernama) -- The DAP's announcement that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has "ceased to exist" must have come as a bombshell for Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), which is caught in the middle of its two feuding partners, PAS and the DAP.

A question mark hangs over the future of the opposition coalition - formed on April 1, 2008 by PKR, DAP and PAS - with PKR finding itself squeezed into a difficult position and furiously working out some solutions to salvage PR.

Whether PR will continue to exist or not will depend on PKR's final stand on the issue, say analysts, as PAS and the DAP had earlier stated their intention to sever ties with each other but both were willing to maintain their cordial relationship with PKR.

PKR Secretary-General and Vice President Mohd Rafizi Ramli was reported as saying that the party's political bureau would have its weekly meeting tonight to discuss the latest developments.

The meltdown between PAS and the DAP hit the climax today when DAP Secretary-General Lim Guan Eng announced that PR has ceased to exist, saying that the party's central executive committee had resolved at a meeting last night to accept the motion by PAS at its 61st muktamar or annual congress earlier this month to sever ties with the DAP.

Lim said the motion to cut ties with the DAP had effectively "killed" the coalition.

WILL SELANGOR AND PENANG BE AFFECTED?

The "demise" of the coalition is bound to affect the administration of the PR-controlled states of Selangor and Penang.

Selangor's State Legislative Assembly has a total of 56 seats, with PAS and DAP holding 15 seats each, PKR (13), BN (12) and independent (one).

Penang has 40 seats, with DAP in control of 19 seats, PKR (10), BN (10) and PAS (one).

What is in store for these two states following the major political upheaval on the PR front?

Che Hamdan Che Mohd Razali, a senior political science lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA's Dungun, Terengganu, campus, felt that the DAP's announcement would not disrupt the state administrations in Selangor or Penang.

"However, it will depend on the commitment of the State Assemblymen to give their full support to the current state leadership.

"I don't expect any problems in Selangor because both the PAS and DAP Assemblymen would continue to give their support to (Menteri Besar) Mohamed Azmin (Ali)," he told Bernama.

Che Hamdan predicted that PKR would continue to forge close cooperation with PAS and the DAP as it did not want to risk losing the menteri besar's post.

Asso Prof Dr Ahmad Martadha Mohamed, who is dean of Universiti Utara Malaysia's College of Law, Government and International Studies, opined that should the DAP work with PKR, they could continue ruling Penang, but not Selangor.

"Legally speaking, the coalition government in Penang will not be affected because PAS only has one seat there and the majority of the seats are controlled by DAP and PKR.

"But it will be a different situation in Selangor if DAP and PKR choose to cooperate with each other, leaving out PAS. The implications are more serious if PKR and DAP join forces because they only have 28 seats, which is not enough to form the state government," he said.

And, added Ahmad Martadha, should PAS and UMNO decide to form a unity government, they would be short of one seat to form the state government in Selangor.

"I won't be surprised if the state government dissolves the State Legislative Assembly to seek a fresh mandate from the people," he said.

DAP INFLUENCED BY PERCEPTION

Looking back, PAS and the DAP first started cooperating with each other in 1999 when they became part of Barisan Alternatif (BA), which also included Parti Keadilan Nasional (KeADILan) and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) before they merged to form PKR in 2003.

The DAP, however, left BA in 2001 as it opposed PAS' Islamic struggle.

Che Hamdan said today's announcement by the DAP was based on its perception of the motion that was passed during the recent PAS muktamar.

PAS Deputy President Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man had earlier said that the motion to sever the party's ties with the DAP would be reviewed by the PAS Syura Council and Central Working Committee.

This clearly showed that PAS had yet to make an official stand on the matter.

LOOSELY-FORMED COALITION

Ahmad Martadha said PR, which was formed by PAS, PKR and the DAP to offer a viable

alternative to Barisan Nasional, was a loosely-formed coalition as it was not registered with the Registrar of Societies.

He said there was no question of PR dissolving as it was, in the first place, an informal grouping.

He added that many people had anticipated the current crisis in the opposition coalition, due to the different political ideologies held by the DAP and PAS.

PAS Youth chief Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz was reported as saying today that the opposition coalition would prevail, with PAS and PKR working together, despite the DAP's announcement that PR has "ceased to exist".

The Member of Parliament for Pasir Mas said PR was formed by the three parties on the basis of cooperation and consensus and, as such, any decision pertaining to the coalition should be taken jointly, and not individually.

He agreed that the future of the coalition now lay in the hands of PKR, whose responsibility it was to heave PR out of the crisis it was engulfed in.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1144656>