

You will 'drown' if you start new party, warns Hadi
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PAS's history is filled with members and leaders who left to form their own parties which eventually went under, said its president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, amid talk that some his own members may be thinking of doing the same.

"Whoever follows or reads PAS's history will see waves and twists in its struggles and the loss of its highest leader, members and supporters individually, drowned with parties and associations which became their vehicles."

Hadi said this in an open letter to PAS members that was uploaded on the website of the party's mouthpiece Harakahdaily.

Without making specific reference to anyone, Hadi urged all PAS members to remain together in the same "congregation", follow the party's principles and approach and be mindful of its history.

His open letter follows the ouster of "progressive" leaders in the recent PAS elections, who are now talking about forming a new political entity.

These progressive leaders, so called for their more open stance to non-Muslims and for collaboration with other opposition parties under Pakatan Rakyat, have since dubbed themselves the "G18".

Dzulkefly Ahmad, who is the group's pro-tem secretary, said that it was focused on bringing together Muslim non-governmental organisations to create a new platform for progressive Islamist politics.

This platform would also work with PKR and DAP, two opposition parties which have strained ties with PAS.

The G18 will not be hostile to PAS, said Dzulkefly, who is one of the leaders booted out of the party's central committee.

The G18 was formed after the DAP and PKR officially announced recently that the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) coalition had ceased to exist, as there was no longer collaboration between DAP and PAS.

This followed PAS's motion to cut ties with the DAP at its annual general assembly in Kuala Selangor earlier this month and DAP's demand that PAS members vacate their government posts in the Penang government.

Pakatan's death however will not affect the running of the Penang and Selangor governments which have politicians from DAP, PKR and PAS. – June 23, 2015.

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