

DAP man: Can Azmin guarantee that PAS can be trusted?

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By Michael Murty

DAP's Charles Santiago says it was obvious that Dr Mahathir was trying to bring everyone together and to rally the crowd, unlike the opposition. — TRP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR, Can Pakatan Harapan (PH) afford to trust PAS now that PKR has reopened the doors for the Islamist party?

DAP's Klang Member of Parliament Charles Santiago, who posed this question, said: "How trustworthy is PAS as a partner, given that they had already gone against all the commitments they gave to Pakatan Rakyat?"

"This is the question that Azmin needs to answer. Can he guarantee PAS can be trusted and what is the basis of his guarantee?"

This came after PKR deputy president Mohamed Azmin Ali said the newly-formed Opposition coalition would continue to reach out to PAS, Parti Sosialis Malaysia and parties from Sabah and Sarawak which opposed Barisan Nasional and Umno.

Santiago said there was no point to just assume PAS could be trusted.

"When push comes to shove, it might turn its back against the coalition and it will render the entire coalition useless again.

"To have a formidable partnership based on trust and commitment, once you sign something, you have to live by it. PAS has shown to be unable to follow through with that."

He said it was interesting to see how former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Umno stalwart and Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah could put aside their differences and unite because of one common goal.

"They do not see eye to eye, but they can leave behind their egoistic issues just to forge a union to oust Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"So the people can see that even within Umno there is an effort to kick Najib out.

"It is sad that the same can't be same about the opposition. The same level of unity does not exist within the opposition."

He said it was obvious that Dr Mahathir was trying to bring everyone together and to rally the crowd unlike the opposition.

"This is a shame, especially to those who want to see real change in the country.

"The opposition parties have to learn from what transpired this morning," referring to Dr Mahathir's press conference this morning.

DAP vice-president Teresa Kok said she was not surprised by PKR's decision.

"This is not a new thing to us.

"This has always been PKR's stand all this while," she said when contacted by *The Rakyat Post*.

She said every party could have its own stance on the formation of the coalition.

"However, if a new party comes in, the other component parties must also give their nod for it.

"It has not come to this stage as of yet. So, there is no need to go on further on PKR's statement."

PAS has opted to stay out of Pakatan Harapan, which comprises PKR, DAP and Parti Amanah Negara.

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