

PAS and Perkasa forge cooperation for Malay-Islam interests

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By Mohd Farhan Darwis

PAS and Malay right-wing group Perkasa today sealed an agreement to work together on issues related to Islamic and Malay interests.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang today announced the cooperation between his Islamist party and Malay right-wing group Perkasa on three current issues, including the edict by the Malay Rulers that investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) be resolved quickly.

PAS and Perkasa also urged Putrajaya to release 1MDB critics Datuk Seri Khairuddin Abu Hassan and his lawyer Matthias Chang, both of whom have been charged for attempted sabotage of the Malaysian economy after lodging reports with foreign authorities against the state investment firm.

They also want Putrajaya to be transparent over the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).

In the meeting held at the PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today, Perkasa president Datuk Ibrahim Ali also commended the Islamist party for ending its association with DAP.

"I wish to express my gratefulness and congratulations (to PAS) for severing ties with DAP," Ibrahim said of PAS's move, which subsequently caused the collapse of the Pakatan Rakyat opposition pact.

"Perkasa is of the opinion that PAS is not at a loss here in terms of its political journey to uphold the tenets of Islam in the country," he said at a joint press conference with Hadi today.

Ibrahim said that the cooperation between the two groups would also address matters that concerned all Malaysians, including issues of safety and security.

"We view seriously, the usage of Sosma which we feel is an abuse of power and can bring about an impact to the nation's stability and is contradictory to the freedom of speech that is enshrined in the Constitution," Hadi said at the press conference which was held at the PAS headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

Both groups earlier held a meeting that lasted two hours and concluded around 5pm.

"Our discussions were very sincere, I also explained why I am quite critical although having contested on a PAS ticket, everything is now 'kosong-kosong'," Ibrahim said.

Ibrahim had won the Pasir Mas parliamentary seat in the 2008 general election on a PAS ticket but turned independent shortly after, a move which had upset several PAS

leaders including its former spiritual leader, the late Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat.

Perkasa also urged PAS to be proactive and initiate cooperation with all parties, including Umno.

"Ideology and political differences should not break apart Islam," Ibrahim said.

PAS secretary-general Datuk Takiyuddin Hassan told reporters that the Islamist party was open to anyone.

"PAS has agreed, for the first time, to hold a friendly meeting with Perkasa.

"This shows that PAS is open to anyone, including Perkasa and non-governmental organisations," he said. – October 13, 2015

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