

**PKR in two minds about Pakatan Harapan's timing, says Rafizi**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Anisah Shukry**

PKR is now divided into two schools of thought on the formation of Pakatan Harapan: one wants it to be done immediately, the other prefers a delay so as to continue talks with PAS, said PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli, confirming that party leaders would hold an emergency meeting next Sunday to discuss the matter.

Rafizi also confirmed a letter obtained by The Malaysian Insider calling for an emergency party supreme council (MPP) meeting on October 11.

The meeting follows a petition by 25 members of the MPP to the party president to discuss the "hasty" formation of Pakatan Harapan, the new opposition pact replacing Pakatan Rakyat (PR).

"While I don't want to pre-empt the outcome of the meeting, I would imagine, in my opinion, since the dispute is over the timing, then it will be a discussion on that, rather than the necessity of Pakatan Harapan," he told The Malaysian Insider when contacted.

"It is very difficult to tell what exactly will be the direction of the discourse, because when an emergency meeting like this is petitioned, obviously the petitioners will explain to the meeting their views, rather than the other way around."

He said the meeting would be chaired by PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who launched Pakatan Harapan on September 22 following a roundtable discussion with DAP, Amanah and several NGOs.

The petitioners have invoked Article 22.1 (c) of the party constitution, which allows for an emergency MPP meeting to be called by one-third of its members through a petition.

Rafizi (pic, right) said he could not anticipate the outcome of the meeting, or what the petitioners wanted beyond telling their side of the story.

"There must be a specific agenda, which is to discuss the announcement (of Pakatan Harapan). From all the discussions so far, there are two schools of thought," said Rafizi.

"One that believes PAS has made clear signals that they will not join an opposition coalition that involves DAP and Amanah, therefore it is better to proceed with that coalition, while at the same time engaging with PAS. And that's why Pakatan Harapan was announced.

"The other school of thought is to delay the announcement and give it more time to explore our options with PAS.

"So my understanding is that there is no dispute on the need for a new Pakatan, but simply whether it is hasty or not," he said.

The petition, dated September 22, said Pakatan Harapan's launch went against the decision PKR made two days before talks between opposition parties and some civil society groups on the opposition's future.

They said the roundtable discussion that day, which ended with Dr Wan Azizah announcing Pakatan Harapan's formation, should have merely been a "preliminary discussion".

However, a party source told The Malaysian Insider that the petitioners were mistaken in claiming that the president had acted against MPP's wishes.

He said MPP during its meeting on September 20 had given Dr Wan Azizah the mandate to decide what to do during the roundtable discussion.

This led to Dr Wan Azizah announcing the formation of Pakatan Harapan, a new opposition coalition to replace Pakatan Rakyat which dissolved over unresolved disputes between DAP and PAS.

The new pact comprises DAP, PKR and Parti Amanah Negara (Amanah).

PAS, one of the original members of Pakatan Rakyat, did not attend the meeting, and has said it will never work with DAP or Amanah, which was formed by a splinter group from the Islamist party.

Dr Wan Azizah also announced Pakatan Harapan had agreed that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would be their choice for prime minister should it wrest Putrajaya. – October 4, 2015.

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