

PAS gags leaders from commenting on Najib's offer
Malaysian Insider
Dec 10, 2015
By Zulkifli Sulong

PAS has ordered all its leaders not to make any statement about its ties with Umno following Datuk Seri Najib Razak's offer for the Islamist party to join it in building Malaysia.

A directive from an aide representing PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang is being circulated among PAS leaders, including the heads of the party's wings and chiefs of its state chapters not to respond to the [Umno president's offer](#) which he made at the party's annual general assembly today.

"I have been contacted by the president regarding Najib's speech.

"The president has instructed that all leaders at every level of the party's wings and chapters in the states and federal territories are not to issue any statement in response to Najib's speech today.

"Wait for a statement from the party's highest leadership," the statement by Hadi's political secretary, Dr Ahmad Samsury Mokhtar, said.

The statement was sighted by The Malaysian Insider.

PAS deputy president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man and elections director Datuk Mustafa Ali when contact declined to comment on Najib's speech and said to let Hadi answer for the party.

PAS information chief Datuk Mahfuz Omar, however, gave his view, saying [Najib's offer showed he was "desperate"](#) for the Malay-Muslim vote.

Najib, who is also prime minister and head of the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition, offered PAS "a brotherhood towards building a perfect Malaysia", adding that Umno was glad that the Islamist part was not part of the opposition pact, Pakatan Harapan.

PAS is not part of the pact, formed to replace Pakatan Rakyat, which collapsed after a fallout between PAS and former ally DAP.

The conservative Hadi has long flirted with the idea of cooperation with Umno for the sake of Islam and the Malays, although its formal stance is against joining the party, its arch-rival in vying for the Malay-Muslim vote.

Two other senior PAS leaders have before this rejected any cooperation with Umno.

Tuan Ibrahim said cooperation with Umno was impossible because the ruling Malay party had oppressed PAS members and leaders over various matters, citing as example the denial of Kelantan's oil royalties to the state, which was controlled by the Islamist party.

PAS vice-president Datuk Iskandar Abdul Samad had also rejected Najib's offer before, saying Umno had too many sins which could not be accepted by PAS grassroots members. – December 10, 2015.

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