

Zahid confident of Umno-PAS alliance
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Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi is confident of the compatibility between the Umno and PAS leaderships but feels it was still too early to formally announce the cooperation.

Zahid, who is the Umno vice-president, said cooperation between the two parties was encouraging and political ties could be established if an understanding was sealed.

"Currently, as I've mentioned in the media earlier, it is too early for me to say that this cooperation is made formally via an organisational political approach.

"I am confident compatibility has existed in the Umno and PAS leaders despite some naysayers from PAS," he said in a statement tonight.

He said Umno practised openness, but the party must take into account the views of its partners in Barisan Nasional (BN) and evaluate the elements of cooperation in terms of the reception from BN component parties.

Zahid also denied he had issued a statement purportedly urging the PAS Shura Council that every member of the party must concur with the Umno-PAS cooperation.

"As per my early statement, no formal cooperation has been formed between Umno and PAS, including any official letter from Umno with regard to the cooperation with PAS.

"Hopefully, any mistake in the report of the Sinar Harian news on December 26, 2015 will be rectified to correct the perception of readers on the Umno-PAS cooperation," he said.

Zahid said he had clearly said in *Mingguan Malaysia* on December 20 that PAS had a strong Shura (consensus) system, and the voices in disagreement would eventually agree.

"In principle, let us hold on to the decree of Allah in Al-Imran, verse 103 urging us to abide by the teachings of Allah to remain united," he added. – Bernama, December 26, 2015.

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