

Pakatan Harapan pushes for Pandikar's resignation

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By Vanesha Shurentheran

They say his declaration to seek a state or parliamentary seat in GE14 shows he can no longer be impartial in making decisions as the Dewan Rakyat speaker.

PETALING JAYA: Pakatan Harapan leaders are calling for the resignation of Parliament Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia after his declared intention to contest the next general election if given the opportunity.

Amanah communications director Khalid Samad said the neutrality of Pandikar's position had become questionable after his declaration of his political ambition to seek either a state or parliamentary seat to contest.

The Shah Alam MP said this made Pandikar less effective in bringing about reforms in Parliament.

"As speaker, he had promised to bring about reforms. He has carried out only a few changes," said Khalid.

PKR strategic director Sim Tze Tzin pointed out that Pandikar is still a member of his party but had let go of all positions in the political party.

He said being a member of the party was not a problem but how he conducted himself and was seen to be impartial in the Dewan Rakyat was crucial.

"We hold our speaker with high regard. So he has to do his best to remain impartial — to us and to democracy.

"That's why Pakatan Harapan has come to the decision to ask him to consider resigning," Sim told FMT.

Pandikar yesterday admitted that after his nine-year stint as speaker of the Dewan Rakyat, he was keen on returning to active politics in Sabah.

But he will leave it to the BN leadership to decide if he will be a suitable candidate for either the state or parliamentary seat.

On Hannah Yeoh, who is Selangor assembly speaker and also DAP assemblyperson for Subang Jaya, Khalid said her situation was different.

He said Yeoh had proven that she was fair and neutral to all parties in Selangor in the past.

He said she had also carried out reforms to the assembly, as suggested by assemblymen.

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