

PKR wants ties with PAS to prevail, says VP Shaharuddin

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PKR vice-president says call by Saifuddin Nasution for Selangor excos from PAS to step down was a personal view and not decision by party leadership.

ALOR SETAR: PKR is still hopeful that PAS will not end the “tahaluf siyasi” (political cooperation) between the two parties despite calls from the Islamist party’s ulama and youth wings to terminate the relationship.

Its vice-president Shaharuddin Badaruddin today said the cooperation served as an important link between PAS and the Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition that PKR is a part of.

However, if the PAS leadership does go ahead to stop the “tahaluf siyasi”, there could still be cooperation in other forms, he added.

He also said the call by PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail for PAS’ state executive councillors in the Selangor government to resign should their party decide to break ties with PKR, was his personal view and did not represent that of the party.

Shaharuddin said PKR’s political bureau had not made a decision on asking the PAS leaders to step down.

“Saifuddin’s request to PAS to resign from the excos posts is his personal view and not the decision of the party,” he told FMT, adding that even if PAS decided to end its relationship with PKR, there could be cooperation in various other forms.

“In politics there can be many ways (to work together). If not by tahaluf siyasi, it can happen by other means, such as a mutual agreement,” he said after attending the PAS muktamar (general assembly) at the Kedah PAS Complex in Kota Sarang Semut near here.

He added that PKR will continue to monitor the issue as it develops during the muktamar.

Shaharuddin said PKR has long shared its struggle with PAS since its formation as Parti Keadilan Nasional in 1999.

“We have been with PAS for 18 years during which time we fostered our tahaluf siyasi,” he said.

“So we feel that it is only right for the relationship to be maintained as it also serves as a link between PAS and Pakatan Harapan,” he said.

However, PKR will wait for the PAS Syura Council to make a final decision on the matter, he added.

On Thursday, PAS’ Dewan Ulama unanimously passed a motion from the wing’s Negeri Sembilan and Perak delegates, to end the tahaluf siyasi.

A similar motion to terminate relations with PKR was then tabled at the PAS Youth muktamar by Terengganu delegate Abdul Rahman Che Mat yesterday, and was given the green light without debate.

The issue will now be discussed by the PAS central committee and the Syura Council for a final decision to be taken by the party on the matter.

If the proposal is approved, it would likely see new rivalry between PAS and PH in the build-up to the next general election (GE14) due by the middle of next year.

It would also likely lead to a conflict between the parties over the continued presence of PAS leaders in the Selangor state government led by PKR deputy president Mohamed Azmin Ali, who is menteri besar.

Saifuddin said yesterday it would not make sense for PAS, which has decided against having ties with PKR’s PH allies, DAP and Amanah, to stay on in the Selangor government if they also declared a cessation of ties with PKR.

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