

PAS: We cooperate for Islam, not because we 'like' anyone

Malaysia Today

June 20, 2017

By Khairil Ashraf

The party's Dewan Ulama information chief says this in response to Najib Razak's assertion that Umno's principles and struggles had made it likeable to PAS.

PETALING JAYA: PAS today said its readiness to cooperate with Umno is based on its inclination to work with any party that would help strengthen the position of Islam.

Dewan Ulama information chief Khairuddin Aman Razali said PAS' willingness in the matter was not because it specifically supported Umno or any other party.

"We are ready to cooperate with any party to empower Islam," he said, adding that it was up to people to make their own interpretations beyond that explanation.

"Each party has its own stand and principle," he told FMT today.

He was commenting on Prime Minister and Umno president Najib Razak's remarks yesterday that Umno's principles and struggles to champion the dignity of Muslims and Islam had made it likeable to PAS.

"Regardless of whether we have differences in opinions, the government under Umno has its principle of struggle, and they (PAS) see our struggle as towards uplifting Muslim dignity," he said.

Najib claimed PAS was drawn towards Umno after it had been "bullied" by DAP while they were together in the Pakatan Rakyat coalition, which was terminated in June 2015.

He added that PAS now saw Umno as benefitting Muslims through its welfare and administration.

"PAS has had enough of DAP. It was bullied when it was with DAP, so much so that it gave up and ran away," he said.

PAS has been on friendly terms with Umno since its president Abdul Hadi Awang announced the party's agenda to pursue "mature and prosperous politics" last year.

The two parties have collaborated in several matters regarding Islam and the Muslim community, such as a humanitarian aid flotilla for the Rohingya people in Myanmar and the move to amend the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 (Act 355) to allow heavier punishments for shariah offences.

PAS is reportedly targeting control of Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah, Perak and Selangor in the coming 14th general election (GE14), while leaving the other states to Umno.

Copyright (C) 2009-2016 MToday News Sdn. Bhd. All Rights Reserved.

Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/06/20/pas-we-cooperate-for-islam-not-because-we-like-anyone/>