

Pakatan Harapan offers new deal to Sabah and Sarawak
Malaysia Today
June 20, 2017

PH Youth says if PH wins GE14, it will make Sabah and Sarawak equal partners in the federation again, and share half of taxes collected with the two states.

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakatan Harapan is promising Sabah and Sarawak a new deal if it captures Putrajaya in the 14th general election.

The crux of the new deal is returning to Sabah and Sarawak equal partner status with Peninsular Malaysia and decentralising powers and tax revenue.

Pakatan Harapan Youth, in a statement today, said the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63), being the foundation of the federation, could not be violated.

The leaders of the PH Youth, in fact, promise to go beyond what MA63 offers, adding: "Sabah and Sarawak must be given stronger and more meaningful autonomy than the terms provided by MA63."

A PH federal government, they said, would return 50% of all taxes collected to Sabah and Sarawak, as this would help "uplift the economy and living standards of both regions, especially in the rural areas, in the shortest available time".

They said: "Sabah and Sarawak shall enjoy wider autonomy and be empowered in community policing, health, education and transportation.

"Let Sabah and Sarawak not only have the freedom, but also the ability, to forge their own destinies."

They said the necessary articles in the Federal Constitution would be amended to give effect to this.

They also aim to create more than 100,000 jobs for the youth of Sabah and Sarawak in the first five years of a PH government.

The noted that Malaysian federalism favoured the federal government over state rights and that this had rendered the two states largely unable to develop their own economies and infrastructure.

Sabah and Sarawak had to rely heavily on and often be "at the mercy" of the federal government politically.

“This situation is particularly unfortunate for Sabah and Sarawak, which were demoted from one of the three equal entities to one of the thirteen states in the federation,” PH Youth said.

After more than 50 years under Barisan Nasional rule, PH Youth felt that “Malaysia had failed Sabah and Sarawak”.

Both regions remained significantly underdeveloped compared with the peninsular states.

“Many young Sabahans and Sarawakians have to leave to seek employment elsewhere, and the failure of the current Barisan Nasional government to uplift the conditions of the natives of Sabah and Sarawak, is a disgrace and a betrayal of Sabah and Sarawak,” the leaders of PH Youth said.

In the coming months, the PH Youth plan to go around advocating this new deal for Malaysians known as #HarapanAnakMuda.

The statement was signed by Wong Kah Woh (Dapsy national chief), Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad (PKR Youth national chief), Mohd Sany Hamzah (Amanah Youth national chief) and Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (PPBM Youth national chief).

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

Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/06/20/pakatan-harapan-offers-new-deal-to-sabah-and-sarawak/>