

Amanah: We'll overcome differences as defeating BN is priority

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Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad says Pakatan Harapan should concentrate on policies and areas of agreement and that the issue of the next prime minister will be settled after the opposition wins the next general election.

PETALING JAYA: Dissenting views in political parties are inevitable, but it won't "necessitate" a break-up of a coalition, Amanah's Khalid Samad said.

"As long as our priority is to defeat the Barisan Nasional, it won't be difficult to unite," Khalid told FMT in a WhatsApp message.

The Shah Alam MP was responding to an opinion piece by Azmi Sharom, a law lecturer at Universiti Malaya, who wondered if the opposition wanted to lose the 14th general election (GE14).

According to Azmi, claims that the opposition parties are divided are true, because they have yet to come up with a clear choice for prime minister.

Azmi also spoke about the public spats about the matter, namely between PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli and DAP's Zaid Ibrahim, adding that this sort of behaviour would only "sicken the voters".

Khalid agreed with Azmi that public spats were unnecessary and assured that the issue of the next prime minister will be settled after the opposition wins the next general election.

Khalid said Pakatan Harapan – which comprises PKR, DAP, Amanah and PPBM – should concentrate on policies and areas of agreement.

"We should understand our priorities."

However, DAP vice-chairperson Teresa Kok personally felt that the most important thing at this stage is for the leaders from all four parties in the opposition coalition to be able to work together and not so much on coming up with a prime minister candidate or a shadow cabinet.

"Before we cross the bridge, if we keep on debating and arguing on who should be future prime minister, this kind of argument and debate will only split us," the Seputeh MP told FMT.

She said that even if a prime minister candidate is announced there would still be disagreement among the parties and maybe even within the parties.

Kok then compared the scenario before the 2008 general election (GE12), saying there was cooperation and understanding between the opposition parties, and adding that there was no discussion on who was going to be prime minister, chief minister, or menteri besar.

“We should wait until we have crossed the bridge (after GE14), because now the more we talk about it the more we will quarrel,” Kok said.

PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin felt that Pakatan leaders should be free to speak their mind and express their opinions.

“To me it is normal to have differences especially when coming to elections,” she told FMT.

Zuraida, who is Ampang MP, said that the prime minister candidate at the end of the day will be officially announced by the coalition’s leadership.

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