

# Kit Siang: PR facing crisis of confidence

THE SUN 10/6/09 MS3

PETALING JAYA: DAP veteran leader and Ipoh Timur MP Lim Kit Siang yesterday admitted that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is now facing its first crisis of confidence among members, supporters and well-wishers since its formation after the March 8 general election last year.

In a statement, Lim commented that some speeches of PAS leaders and resolutions at the 55th PAS muktamar last week - like the focus on the Umno-PAS unity talks and the call for the ban on Sisters-in Islam - have had an opposite effect, creating a crisis of confidence in the PR among members, supporters and well-wishers.

"Umno Youth leader Khairy Jamaluddin and other Umno leaders are trying to press home the advantage of using the Umno-PAS unity talks to split PR and undermine public confidence in PR.

"This is a test of the wisdom and capability of DAP, PKR and PAS leaders to measure up to the expectations of the people as expressed in the last general election to advance the cause of PR," he said.

On Monday, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng had demanded an explanation from PAS on the reported proposal by PAS president Datuk Seri Hadi Abdul Awang to establish a unity government, which will involve cooperation with Umno.

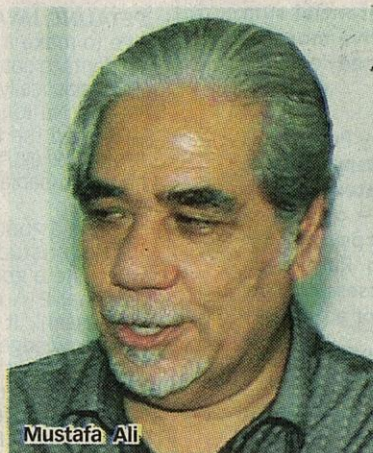
He also said DAP had never been informed of and had not agreed to the formation of a unity government.

Meanwhile, PKR said the party wants an explanation from PAS on the unity government issue or any discussion with Umno.

In a press statement, PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said the party will, however, not stop or dispute any party's wishes to discuss issues which involves



Lim Kit Siang



Mustafa Ali

national interest.

"I would like to reiterate PKR's commitment to ensure that PR remains strong. We are confident that our partners, PAS and DAP will have the same desire to ensure that the agenda of change is executed in Malaysia," she said.

In KUALA LUMPUR, PAS election director Datuk Mustafa Ali urged PR leaders to stop harping on the unity government issue as it may confuse supporters, adding that it was "irrelevant".

"I beg all PAS and Pakatan Rakyat leaders to work hard in the run-up to the Manek Urai by-election and to stop making statements that can

confuse PAS supporters, especially on the unity government issue," he told a press conference at its headquarters here yesterday.

"The talk on unity government is irrelevant at this point of time because using terms to explain co-operation can be misleading. We are cooperating and working together with PR and not with Barisan Nasional," he said.

Mustafa pointed out that the idea had been misunderstood and it was not seeking any "political cooperation" with BN but is committed towards strengthening PR.

He said for now the focus should be on how to win in the by-election.

"Engagement, yes, we are okay with engagements with any political party including Umno and BN," he said referring to Abdul Hadi's policy speech at the muktamar that it will continue to engage with other parties, including Umno.

Mustafa said when Abdul Hadi had first proposed the unity government concept at the central working committee meeting, it was never discussed till it became the party's official decision.

Asked how the committee members reacted to the proposal, Mustafa said: "Most of them did not agree to the idea, I could see it from their faces. But it remains as a concept because it was never discussed."

Mustafa pointed out that Abdul Hadi had related his idea of forming a unity government to PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, but probably DAP secretary-general Lim was not informed about it.

He also explained that he was present when PAS and Umno first met to talk about Malay unity after the March general election and decision was made that there will be no political cooperation with Umno.

However, the unity government talks were slammed by several quarters, including delegates, PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat, DAP and PKR, which had asked PAS for an explanation its stand on the unity government issue.