



GERAK INDEPENDENT PRESS STATEMENT

PRESS RELEASE ON THE DEFECTION OF TWO PKR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT 4 MARCH 2021

Gerak Independent expresses its deep concern on the recent defection of two Members of Parliament from Parti Keadilan Rakyat to Perikatan Nasional. These defections now account for 25% of Members of Parliament from Parti Keadilan Rakyat elected into office in the 14th General Elections. A total of 12 out of the original 48 elected parliamentary representatives from Parti Keadilan Rakyat have since defected to Perikatan Nasional.

Gerak Independent condemns the culture of party hopping and urges Parliament to enact long overdue anti-hopping laws or at the very least Recall Election. Gerak Independent also urges Parti Keadilan Rakyat and all political parties to be more stringent in its due diligence to ensure that only candidates with integrity and competency are fielded in the next General Elections.

In this regard, Gerak Independent (GI) urges all political parties to refine its due diligence and candidate selection process to be more in line with how GI carries its reviews of candidates. In the GI model, the rakyat selects candidates for parliamentary seats based on their progressive values, commitment to civil liberties, competency and integrity instead of criteria centered on loyalty to party leadership and seniority within the party.

Whilst Article 10 of the Federal Constitution does allow for freedom of association, GI rejects the justifications provided by both defecting Members of Parliaments, and adopts the position that any elected representative is still able to serve the constituency even if funding allocations are withheld by the Government. This would also mean that the Government must adopt a strong moral position in ensuring all Members of Parliament are provided with sufficient allocations to ensure that no Malaysian is ever left behind in the future economic development of the nation.

Gerak Independent reminds all Members of Parliament that they were elected into office on the basis of declared manifestos and promises made on the run-up to General Elections. The public has expectations that promises made will be honored. GI also advises the Government to adopt a moral high ground on the issue of defections and to ensure that national resources are never utilized as an incentive to support the Government. The law must therefore be applied equally and fairly. Under no circumstances should any law be used as a bargaining chip for loyalty. Gerak Independent also urges the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate the nature of the recent two defections in order to rebuild public confidence in the election process and parliament's elected representatives.

Gerak Independent is a people based movement that aims to ensure that only individuals of integrity are elected into public office, and in this regard, Gerak Independent carries out stringent evaluation of its candidates that also involves the public in its evaluation

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process in order to ensure that only quality and competent individuals are fielded in the next General Elections. GI is fully committed to ending divisive politics and ensuring that all guaranteed freedoms and institutional powers are restored to the rakyat.

About Gerak Independent (GI)

Gerak Independent aims to bring non politically partisan MPs into Parliament by the rakyat for the rakyat based on progressive values in governance and education, and ensuring civil liberties and an equal Malaysia for every Malaysians irrespective of race or religion.

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Date: 4th March 2021