

# PAS ready for talks with Pribumi

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**MARANG:** PAS is willing to have talks on possible cooperation with Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Pribumi), its president Dunak Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said here.

"The door for discussions is still open. If they come, they can talk and we can talk. This is a democratic country but everyone should know that PAS has its policies, vision and its concept," he said during his morning talks at the Busia mosque yesterday.

It was reported recently that Pribumi adviser Tun Dr Mahathir

Hadi: It's a democratic country, but we have our stand

Mohamad was still hopeful of working together with PAS in facing Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir, who is party chairman, said Pribumi would meet PAS on Feb 2 to discuss the matter further.

The Pribumi team, to be led by its deputy president Dunak Seri Mohaz, Mahathir, will have the meeting aiming to court PAS to work with Pribumi to avoid three-cornered fights against Barisan.

On a separate issue regarding critics and questions posed by certain people on Hadi's statement over unity between Syiah and Sunni and his meetings with Syiah leaders, Hadi said he was a follower of the Sunnah Wali Jannah but was always supportive of unity among Muslims in the world.

"Syiah has good qualities too. We support what is good and oppose what is not good. We cannot be enemies with anyone, be they Muslims or non-Muslims," he said.

Responding to a question

regarding DAP's adviser Lim Kit Sang's statement expressing willingness to hold talks and work with PAS, Abdul Hadi said they had shut their doors on DAP.

He said DAP and its leaders, including Lim who is Gelang Patah MP, had never shown any sign of support towards its struggle.

He said the DAP's plan to hold talks with PAS was only part of an agenda to win the election.

"The party and its leaders have never shown any signs of support towards our struggle. They are

against the formation of an Islamic government," he said.

Abdul Hadi, who is also Marang MP, said DAP had shown its true colours when it neglected the Muslims in Penang after it headed the state government.

"Look at their attitude towards the Muslims in Penang. This is clear proof. What DAP is doing now is only to win the election. On our part, we are not interested in just the general election, but to also help the Muslims in Penang after it."

"We have our agenda and DAP too has its agenda. But our agendas are different and do not meet or coincide," he added.



**Lion dance hunters:** Borter (left), Müller and Kaufman looking at a lion dance costume in Ipoh.

## 'Lion dance here more vibrant than in China'

By AMANDA YEAP  
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**IPOH:** Swiss national Martin Borter has been training in Chinese martial arts and lion dance for two decades now.

But the 30-year-old has never seen a lion dance performance during one of the largest occasions in Chinese culture - Chinese New Year.

This year, Borter, with his girlfriend Corinne Kaufman, 25, and best friend Roger Müller, 20, both of whom share the same passion in lion dance, made it a point to come here to experience the Chinese New Year lion dance performance.

"We want to experience how it feels to perform the lion dance during a big occasion like Chinese New Year, which is why we chose to come around this time."

"We are only used to seeing the food, the scenes, the 'dong dang qiang' on television. It is simply not the same when you go to experience it in the flesh," Borter said.

He said Ipoh is also special for them because the wushu master they trained under in Switzerland, Ipeh-berh Chow Kok Yeng, used to train at the Chin Woo Athletic Association here.

"We think it is appropriate to offer our respects to the school our master trained in. He is very impor-

tant to us. It is thanks to him that the three of us could make the trip to this country during the festive season," he said.

According to Borter, Chow, who he sees as a grandfather figure, had migrated to Switzerland to continue teaching wushu many years ago.

"My father used to train under him too, which was why I was exposed to Chinese martial arts at a young age," he said, adding that he started formal training at 10.

Kaufman and Müller said they were motivated to learn Chinese martial arts and lion dance after watching movies when they were kids, especially those that featured renowned kungfu masters Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan.

"We would practise wushu and lion dance back in Switzerland, but it's very basic. There are also very few lion dance teachers there."

"Here, there are so many techniques for us to hone our skills. It is truly overwhelming," said Kaufman, who began training in wushu at 16, the same age as Müller.

The three, who arrived on Monday said, the lion dance techniques taught in Ipoh were more vibrant and beautiful, different from that taught in China.

"The lion dance here portrays the lions like cats with agile and softer movements. They look powerful



but sweet at the same time," he said.

The biggest challenge, Borter said, was to practise the dance in a way that makes the audience think that they are looking at a real lion dancing instead of two humans performing the nifty moves.

"There's good spirit here when we train at Chin Woo. We have already learned the basic wushu and kungfu techniques, so that it makes our learning curve for lion dance less difficult," he said.

Apart from the full Lunar New Year immersion experience, Borter said it has always been his long-time dream to bring important parts of Chinese culture back to Switzerland. "European kids are too attached

to their games. I believe that by bringing some elements of Chinese tradition back, like the lion dance, it is a good chance for them to learn something more than what they are normally exposed to," he said.

He hoped that the Ipoh Chinese Chin Woo Association would give its wushu counterpart and Chow its full support in their mission to promote Chinese culture in Switzerland.

Borter is a full-time wushu teacher at the Swiss Chin Woo Association, while Kaufman works as a real estate agent and Müller, a carpenter. They return home on Feb 2. Busting their 10-day trip here, they are being looked after by Master Tan Choo Eng, 65.

## Bus firms urged to speed up SLD installation

**PETALING JAYA:** Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye has urged all bus operators to go the extra mile and begin installing the Speed Limiting Device (SLD) to improve the safety of their buses.

"All bus companies should take the initiative and install the SLD instead of waiting for it to become mandatory in 2020," said the National Road Safety Council member.

The speed limiters ensure that express buses cannot go faster than the 90km limit.

"Bus operators must realise that if they can ensure a safe journey for their passengers, it will certainly give confidence to the public to use their buses and enhance their image."

He added that to further improve their image, operators should voluntarily approach the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (Miosri) to be graded by their Safety Star Grading (SSG) programme.

The grading system is based on the Industrial Code of Practice (ICOP) 2010 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1994 and uses a star rating system to set an indicator of a bus company's safety standards.

He said some operators have already been graded by the programme.

Lee said bus operators should improve their safety on bus seats while enforcement agencies need to conduct more checks on public transport vehicles and drivers.

Passengers should not be afraid to report if they found anything amiss, he added.

"If the driver goes over the speed limit or uses his phone while driving, passengers should ask the driver to slow down or stop using his phone."

## Three women to be charged over abuse of children

**SHAH ALAM:** Three women, including an owner of a nursery will be charged over the alleged abuse of children at the nursery in Bangi.

Selangor police chief Comm. Danik Seri Abdul Samah said

the owner and two of the nursery's child minders will be brought to the Kajang magistrate's court on Tuesday.

"The owner will be charged with child abuse under Section 311(1A) of the Child Act while the child

minders will be charged as accomplices under Section 109 of the Penal Code to be read with Section 311(2)(a) of the Child Act," he told reporters at the Selangor police headquarters yesterday.

Comm. Abdul Samah said the

nursery would be shut down as it was found to be operating without a valid permit.

It was reported that four women had been detained in connection with alleged abuse at a nursery in Bangi a week ago.

This came about after Facebook posts showed a photograph of three children lying on the floor with their mouths wrapped with cloth.

The children have been sent to a hospital for a check up.