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43 PAS MEMBERS JOIN UMNO IN MELAKA

MELAKA, July 3 (Bernama) -- Forty-three PAS members from the Ayer Keroh branch, Batu Berendam Division, today handed over their application forms to join Umno.

Their representative Abdul Hadi Said, 44, handed over the membership applications to Umno Secretary-General Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob at an election briefing organised by the Batu Berendam Umno Division here.

Hadi said he and his friends decided to leave PAS after realising the hypocrisy of the PAS leadership which used Islam for its political struggle.

"PAS no longer follows the true path in the Islamic struggle and instead has disrupted the unity of Malays," he said.

PAS leaders had lost their sense of direction and were banking on the Umno political issue to serve their own interests, he said.

The issue of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim should be left to the courts, he added.

"Anwar was never with PAS but when he was sacked from the government PAS is now courting him," said Hadi who had been a PAS member in the branch for more than 10 years.

PAS leaders, according to Hadi, would pounce upon issues which benefited them and sacrificed long established party policies and principles.

Hadi said he was joining Umno because of the great faith he had in Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had done so much for this country and its people.

Dr Mahathir had also enhanced Malaysia's name the world over, Hadi added.

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