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Ex-Pas members join Umno

KOTA BARU, Sat. - Disillusioned, some 40 Pas members in Pengkalan Chepa left to join Umno today.

A brief ceremony was held where their leader Shamsuddin Derauf handed over the Umno membership application forms to State Umno liaison chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Also present was Pengkalan Chepa Umno division chief Dr Nik Mohd Zin Omar.

Speaking to a crowd of some 200 people, Shamsuddin, who claimed to be Desa Kemumin (Phase One) Pas branch chairman, said he was joining Umno because he felt disillusioned with Pas' struggle.

"I joined Pas in 1985, determined to help the party's struggle ... the so-called Islamic struggle. It was a mistake which took me about 15 years to realise.

"It was the sweet talks and slogans of fighting for Islam that attracted me to Pas," he said.

Shamsuddin said the call for Malay unity by the Umno leaders, especially Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, also helped him in making his decision to leave Pas.

He hoped that other Pas members in the community would help to united the Malays.

Shamsuddin said most of the Pas members who left to join Umno today were from the Desa Kemumin (Phase One) branch who included its Youth leader Khairul Azhar Daud, 27, a businessman.

Khairul Azhar said he was joining Umno as he believed the move would enable him to contribute more for the society, especially the young generation.

"I have been a Pas member for eight years and have become disillusioned with the party, especially in the aspects involving interest and welfare of the youths."

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