

# Johor delegate takes a swipe at 'cowardly' leaders

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CUT down on the excuses or risk losing in the next general election, a delegate from Johor told a group of leaders he described as "elitists."

"I have invited many top PAS leaders to hold *ceramah* in Johor.

"But when told that permits to hold the gatherings had not been approved, they came up with the lame excuse that they feared losing their rights as elected representatives (if they attended the *ceramah*) said delegate Rahim Abdullah.

He clarified, however, that he was not referring to leaders such as party president Datuk Fadzil Noor, his deputy Datuk Seri Hadi Awang, party spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat or central working committee member Mohamad Sabu.

Those he was referring to, he said, were either cowards or afraid to lose their ranks.

"If these leaders are reluctant to give information, who then can we depend on to provide insights into party policies or current issues?" he asked.

Rahim did not name the leaders concerned but he assured them that they had "nothing to fear" as there had not been any PAS leader

who had been arrested for any offence.

"I want to point out that PAS leaders have a duty to accept invitations from the division and branch leaders or else the next general election is as good as lost," he said.

Rahim also took a swipe at the party's official newsletter, *Harakah*, for allowing the paper to be used as a tool to hit out at PAS leaders.

As an example, he cited an article in the English section of a recent issue, which criticised Fadzil for attending a seminar on the Palestinians where Umno president and Prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was also present.

"How can the custodians of *Harakah* allow this to happen? This is why Johor PAS suggests that the board of directors serve the paper on a two-term basis against the present permanent arrangement," he said.

Kelantan PAS information chief Nik Akmar Abdullah reminded ulamas to open their minds and not confine themselves to religious knowledge.