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Pas members from Kelantan branch cross over to Umno

JELI, Sun. - Some 130 Pas members from the Batu Luar Lima branch have defected to Umno, saying their former party had failed to discharge its responsibility to the people.

The group, led by branch secretary Yahya Jusoh, 51, today handed over their membership applications to Kelantan Umno head Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, who is also Jeli Umno chief.

Simultaneously, an Umno branch was set up in Batu Luar Lima with Yahya as the pro-tem head.

Yahya said they had lost confidence in Pas.

"The Pas representative has failed in his duty. The problems of his constituents have not been attended to," he said, adding that more Pas members were expected to follow suit.

Mustapa said Umno had been making inroads into Pas strongholds in the State and this was a positive sign.

Early this month, 145 Pas members and fence-sitters from Kampung Jakar and Kampung Bukit Nangka joined Umno.

"More people have realised that Pas has no agenda for the people," Mustapa said. "Pas supporters are also uncomfortable with their leaders' insulting remarks, including linking God with thugs."

He said Pas was feeling the heat from the Umno onslaught.

Mustapa said Pas had failed to bring about changes in the State throughout its 12-year rule.

He wondered why Pas leaders disliked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when they had benefited from the various programmes initiated by him.