

Nasharuddin backs Hasan, says sacking was drastic
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Former PAS deputy president Nasharuddin Mat Isa expressed his support for former Selangor PAS commissioner Hasan Ali, saying the party's decision to sack Hasan was too drastic.

According to reports in Malay daily Sinar Harian and mStar online, the Bachok MP explained that he went to Hasan's house on Sunday to lend his support to Hasan who has been upholding the importance of Islam.

"My attendance on that night was out of my sympathy and support to him as an individual. I have personally observed his commitment for the interests of the religion although he has to face many challenges," he was quoted as saying.

"The action of the PAS central leadership to sack Hasan was a drastic action without giving an opportunity for him to provide an explanation," he said, adding that Hasan can still appeal to the party's syura council - the highest decision-making body - within 30 days.

Nasharuddin was one of the few PAS leaders to attend a solidarity gathering at Hasan's house on Sunday night, just hours after the PAS central committee announced his sacking.

The disheartened Hasan blamed his sacking on his refusal to support opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in the latter's sodomy trial that he claimed was contrary to PAS' stance.

On the other hand, PAS information chief Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man told Berita Harian that party leaders who attended the gathering at Hasan's house will not be punished.

When asked whether the party will take action against Nasharuddin who supported Hasan, he answered: "If there is a case we will consider it, but we do not ban them from attending to give support, maybe they went there just to listen."

Abdul Rani prefers not to replace Hasan

In another related development, Selangor PAS commissioner Dr Abdul Rani Osman told Sinar Harian that he preferred not to replace Hasan as a Selangor state exco member.

NONE "It is better if another person is nominated for the post. I afraid that I will not be able to shoulder the responsibility as a state exco member," Abdul Rani (left) told the Malay daily.

However, he said that the the state liaison committee will abide by the decision of the central leadership to appoint any leader to assume the post, including himself.

Yesterday Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim urged Hasan to resign like a "gentleman" and his successor will be decided by the PAS leadership.

He will discuss the replacement for Hasan during an audience with Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on Friday.