

# Ulama to take on Nasharudin for PAS No 2 post

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**PETALING JAYA:** The fight for the post of PAS deputy president is on, with arch-conservative Datuk Harun Taib taking on incumbent Nasharudin Mat Isa.

Harun, who heads the Dewan Ulama wing in PAS, has indicated that he is accepting the nomination for the No 2 post.

The contest is seen as a culmination of the brewing differences between the conservative old guard, and the younger and more progressive segment in PAS.

The PAS election will take place on the first day of their party *muktamar*

or national congress, from June 1 to 3 in Kota Baru.

It is learnt that Harun received his nomination letter yesterday and has indicated to close associates that he is "not rejecting it".

Nasharudin, who has held the post for only one term, said he would defend his post. The first-term deputy president said he was not daunted by the prospect of taking on someone as senior and well known as Harun.

"I accept the challenge in good faith and I envisage a friendly contest because in PAS, we respect our party

elders, including our *ulama*," he said.

Both men will not be campaigning, in line with the party culture, which frowns on any form of campaign or self-promotion.

"Party members know who he is and who I am, so there's no need to campaign. Both of us are offering our services to the party," he added.

Nasharudin, a former Islamic law lecturer at Universiti Islam Antarabangsa, was among the young faces that came in with the winds of change in the 2005 party polls.

The old guard and young Turks differ in their approach on issues like

the Islamic state, wooing young voters, working with other opposition parties and even the purchase of the new headquarters in downtown Kuala Lumpur.

Harun is expected to give up his current post as Dewan Ulama head. It is learnt that the Dewan Ulama members want Mohamed Daud, an elderly *ulama figure* from Kelantan, to take on the post.

Mohamed, better known as "Daud Iraqi" because he had studied in Baghdad, is said to be reluctant because he suffered a bad stroke several years ago.