

'I didn't meet with Umno leaders'
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KUALA LUMPUR: The finger-pointing in Pas continues with embattled Datuk Dr Hasan Ali denying he met with Umno leaders. Instead he accused the party's secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali of doing so.

Hasan said it was Mustafa who had requested to meet an "Umno top leader", but the meeting did not materialise.

"I vehemently deny any meeting with any Umno leader. He (Mustafa) is spreading lies.

"For all I know, it is he who had numerous meetings with Umno leaders.

"As the secretary-general of an Islamic party, those lies and judgmental remarks should never have been uttered by a leader," Hasan said at his residence here yesterday.

Mustafa had previously claimed he had evidence of the meeting, which he claimed was held at a hotel in the city here in August and was attended by former deputy president Nasharuddin Mat Isa and three other individuals.

Hasan, who is also Selangor state executive councillor in charge of Islamic affairs, however, refused to elaborate on this allegation.

"I would like to stop at that, just like when he (Mustafa) stopped short of accusing me of meeting with Umno leaders at Hotel Le Meridien.

"I am also prepared to be investigated by the party over this matter, as long as he is being investigated, too."

Earlier, Hasan, who had claimed Pas had strayed from its original struggle for an Islamic state, retracted his remarks and apologised for "going too far".

"As a Pas and central committee member, I admit there were elements of excessiveness when I said that."

He also said he accepted and understood the welfare state concept, which was decided during the muktamar (Pas general assembly) and endorsed by the Ulama Syura Council.

On a separate note, Hasan turned down Datuk Ibrahim Ali's invitation for him to join the Malay-right wing non-governmental organisation, Perkasa.

"Thank you, but no. For now I will fight on this platform," he said, adding that he was willing to meet with the top leadership in Pas to clear the air.

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