

**Pas, PKR members quit to join Umno**  
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**KEPALA BATAS: Claiming that party leaders were subservient to DAP, some 40 Pas members from Kampung Bakau Tua branch in Penaga have quit the party.**

Led by Mohd Subhie Yaakob, 50, they said the leaders had fallen for DAP's ambitious plan to take over Putrajaya and were willing to blindly follow DAP's lead.

"This is not good for the party. We are also concerned about the welfare of the Malay community in Penang... We are being suppressed by the DAP government.

"We've decided to leave because we've lost confidence in Pas," he said on Sunday.

Present to receive the group's application forms were Penaga assemblyman and state opposition leader Datuk Azhar Ibrahim and Kepala Batas Umno division Youth chief Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican.

Subhie denied the group's decision to cross over to Umno was influenced by the widening rift between the Pas leadership and Selangor executive council member Datuk Dr Hassan Ali and former deputy president Nasharuddin Mat Isa.

This is the second group from Kampung Bakau Tua branch to quit the party citing loss of confidence. Two months ago, 37 Pas Youth members there left Pas and joined Umno.

Reezal said this showed Pas members were beginning to realise there was something wrong with the party which claimed to be championing Islam.

"We believe this will create a snowball effect and cause more members to quit the party."

In Kota Baru, 50 members from Kampung Tasik Bakong, in Rantau Panjang, quit Pas, claiming the party had neglected the Malay community.

The group of rubber tappers, led by Abdullah Yusuf, said it was Umno that had helped them instead of Pas.

"We have been loyal to the party (Pas) and have been with it since 1950, but clearly our lives have not got any better."

The group handed their application forms to Rantau Panjang Umno division head Datuk Abdullah Mat Yassin on Saturday.

"Barisan Nasional (BN) has proven that the people's welfare is a priority, but Pas will only help us during elections when they want our votes."

In Kuala Lumpur, some 500 members of Angkatan Muda Keadilan, the youth wing of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR), from the Hulu Kelang division, left the party, saying they did not want to be "deceived" any longer by the leaders.

Spokesman for the group, Mohd Jefry Sallehuddin, said they were disappointed with PKR's empty promises.

They submitted their application forms to Gombak Umno division head Abdul Rahim Kamarudin here yesterday.

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