

**PAS drops Hasan Ali, Nasharudin from upcoming polls, says Utusan  
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By Melissa Chi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 11 — Datuk Dr Hasan Ali and Nasharudin Mat Isa have been dropped as PAS candidates for the coming general elections, Utusan Malaysia reported today.

Quoting unnamed sources, the Umno-owned newspaper said Selangor executive councillor Hasan will be “removed” by Selangor PAS, with blessings from the PAS central committee.

“Mingguan Malaysia understands that the PAS central committee has also dropped a few other PAS leaders who are not well-liked by the pro Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim group, otherwise known as Erdogan, and among them is former PAS deputy president Nasharudin Mat Isa.

“The decision to drop Hasan ... has been heatedly discussed in local blogs such as MyKMU.net (an Umno supporters group), brojinggo.blogspot.com (current affairs) and darikakigunungjerai.blogspot.com,” the Sunday edition of the newspaper, Mingguan Malaysia, reported.

The decision comes on the heels of Selangor PAS information chief Shaari Sungib’s remarks, published in several blogs, that it is highly likely Hasan will be dropped as a candidate.

According to Mingguan Malaysia, Shaari had said that the former Selangor PAS chief did not garner enough nominations.

But the Malay-language daily said dropping Hasan was because the Gombak Setia assemblyman has become a thorn in the side for Selangor PAS and the opposition alliance, especially DAP.

Hasan, who is in charge of the state’s Islamic affairs portfolio, previously defended a raid by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) on the Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) in August, claiming there was proselytisation of Muslims on the premises.

Widely seen as a religious conservative, Hasan has been at odds with the ruling PR state government’s seemingly liberal policies on several occasions, most notably his push for a beer sale ban in the country’s most developed state earlier this year.

“Hasan is a popular leader among Muslims whether in Selangor or across the whole country.

“This is following his commitment to guard the sanctity of Islam in Selangor and the best example is the Jais raid on DUMC after complaints were lodged that the proselytisation of Muslims was taking place there,” the Umno newspaper said.

Since Election 2008, Umno has made repeated overtures to the Islamic party claiming that a unification would guarantee the Malay community’s hold on political power.

But PAS has repeatedly snubbed the efforts and expressed its commitment towards PR and their common aim to oust Umno and Barisan Nasional from Putrajaya.

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