

Accused by Hasan Ali, Harakah posts full interview transcript
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By Debra Chong

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 29 — PAS's official paper, Harakah Daily, posted today the full transcript of a news conference chaired yesterday by Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat to prove it had not distorted news about maverick member Datuk Hasan Ali as alleged.

The ex-Selangor PAS chief accused the Malay-language daily yesterday of twisting his words and publishing a report saying he had met the party's leadership in Kelantan to apologise for his critical view of its Islamic cause the past few weeks.

"I am disappointed with Harakahdaily's report although they have been reminded many times not to twist facts which would lead to confusion and disunity," he said, adding that the gathering in Kota Baru was "held with great affection, intimacy and sincerity".

In the transcript posted on its website, Harakah cited Nik Aziz as saying Hasan Ali had visited Kota Baru to apologise to PAS leaders and withdraw his "sensitive remarks".

"Datuk Hasan Ali withdrew his sensitive remarks. This is a sign of masculinity. When we know we are wrong, we must withdraw it, apologise," the Islamist party's spiritual advisor purportedly said.

Hasan drew the ire of party colleagues for criticising PAS to Umno-owned media such as Utusan Malaysia, Berita Harian and television station TV3.

The Gombak Setia assemblyman had accused PAS of straying from its original struggle for an Islamic state by pushing for a welfare state.

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