

Rift In PAS Due To Deviation From Original Struggle
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- The rift between former Perak PAS commissioner Datuk Dr Hasan Mohamed Ali and several senior PAS leaders appears to be worsening over several issues including Hasan's allegation that PAS has deviated from its original struggle to set up an Islamic country.

Many PAS members are actually unhappy with the party's policy to set up a welfare nation as its struggle all this while been to establish an Islamic country.

Hasan's voice should not be seen as only his alone as it represents a fair portion of the grassroots members.

"I have the facts and proof that PAS members who all this while been supporting PAS are beginning to question and mulling whether to continue to support PAS as it has deviated from its main struggle," said Dr Hasan, who is also the PAS assemblyman for Gombak and a Selangor state executive councillor.

PAS is now is seen as being too yielding to its coalition partners, the DAP and PKR, on the seizure of liquor in Shah Alam, the apostasy issue, entertainment prohibition in Kedah and the one million Muslims assembly held at the Shah Alam stadium recently.

Since the rift erupted two weeks ago, Hasan's stand has begun to gather momentum among PAS members.

On this, independent member of Parliament for Kulim-Bandar Baharu Datuk Zulkifli Noordin said that the people would reject PAS's Welfare Nation Policy as it was not consistent with its struggle.

He said PAS in 2003 presented its Islamic Nation Document to oppose the concept of Islam Hadhari introduced by former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Nevertheless, now the 2003 document was rejected by PAS itself and was replaced with its present policy while the Islamic Nation Document has been buried with the excuse that the Islamic country concept was not mentioned in the al-Quran," he said.

Zulkifli said the Welfare Nation Document was only to overcome the concept of Islam Wasathiyah which was the thrust of the 1Malaysia concept.

History expert Prof Datuk Dr Ramlah Adam said the current stand of PAS was different from the pact it made with DAP and PKR before the 2008 general election.

She said PAS had also made an election pact with DAP in the 1999 under Barisan Alternatif and the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah in 1990 with Parti Semangat 46 but the party's policy had not changed.

"The statement by Dr Hasan that there were not many ulama left in the party only confirmed the general perception of the people.

"From the party (PAS') election in June, we can see the ulama are no longer in control of the party," she told Bernama.

She said DAP and PKR were stronger than PAS in deciding the direction of the opposition pact.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) senior political science lecturer Abdul Ghapa Harun said it was a common thing to have members and leaders in a party holding differing views.

He said irrespective of whether it was Umno, PAS, DAP or PKR, there would always be differences in opinions.

"Despite the differing views in a party which practises democracy, it should be managed well by the top leadership so that it would not create problems to the party," he told Bernama.

He said in the context of Dr Hasan's issue, it was related to party orientation which was not in the hands of a particular leader and should be debated at its annual general assembly.

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