

**Hasan Ali has declared war against PAS, says Mahfuz**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**December 21, 2011**  
**By Lisa J. Ariffin**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21 — Datuk Hasan Ali has declared war on PAS with his rejection of the “Negara Berkeadilan” concept as championed by its leaders, party vice-president Datuk Mahfuz Omar said today.

Mahfuz’s remark appears the clearest sign yet that Hasan’s days in PAS are numbered, especially after his recent public criticisms of the party sparked outrage and condemnation from a host of senior leaders in the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) coalition.

Hasan, a senior Selangor government leader, has accused PAS of deviating from its Islamic agenda, pointing to the shift to push the concept of a “Negara Berkeadilan” or Welfare State, at the party’s annual general meeting earlier this year.

“His statement yesterday when he rejected ‘Negara Berkeadilan’ is a declaration of war with PAS... It can be considered waging war against the party by rejecting decisions made by party leaders,” Mahfuz (picture) told reporters at a press conference here.

“He has declared that he has lost confidence and can no longer accept PAS policies. To me, as an educated motivational speaker, he should be able to make decisions about his future in the party,” he added.

When asked to comment on the welfare state slant, Mahfuz said “What’s the problem with a welfare state? Welfare is preached in Islam.”

Mahfuz said if Hasan was convinced PAS has deviated from its roots, then there was no reason for him to stay in the party.

“To me, if I feel PAS has gone off track, I won’t stay in PAS,” he said.

“That is why I say his statement yesterday shows hypocrisy. Before this, he said he joined PAS because of the leadership of ulama (religious scholars). The ulama said PAS have not deviated, how can he say PAS has deviated?” Mahfuz asked.

“He has lost confidence in the ulama and to me it is hypocritical when he said PAS should be led by ulama.”

However, Mahfuz stressed that he was not forcing Hasan out.

“I am not asking him to leave (the party). But he, as a motivational speaker, should know what decision to make,” he said.

“If I don’t believe in a party anymore, I will leave.”

The Malaysian Insider

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