

Hasan Ali denies report on apology
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By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 29 — PAS leader Datuk Dr Hasan Ali yesterday denied that he was in Kota Baru on Tuesday to apologise to party spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat, as reported in the party's official organ Harakah.

"I was invited to attend a gathering with former deputy president Nashrudin Mat Isa, deputy spiritual leader Datuk Dr Haron Din and (Nik Aziz) at (the latter's) official residence at JKR 10 Kota Baru," Hasan (picture) explained yesterday in a press statement.

"Among things discussed during the gathering were the party's direction, preparations for the 13th general election and Harakah's direction as the party's official voice," he said.

Yesterday, Harakahdaily reported that the former Selangor PAS chief made amends at a meeting with top party leaders and retracted all negative comments he had made about PAS in recent weeks.

Hasan pointed out that he already apologised to party leaders during a press conference on December 24 held specifically to retract negative statements about the party.

"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".

"The leaders had given views on how to strengthen the party's development and win the people's support."

In recent weeks, Hasan had stoked the ire of his colleagues in PAS when he criticised the party in Utusan Malaysia, Berita Harian and TV3 for purportedly abandoning its Islamist credentials for the sake of political gain.

He was also featured almost nightly on TV3 last week, criticising the party that removed him as Selangor PAS chief at its general assembly in June.

Hasan had accused PAS of straying from its original struggle for an Islamic state by pushing for a welfare state.

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