

Hasan Ali issues mea culpa over PAS attacks
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 28 — PAS central committee member Datuk Dr Hasan Ali has apologised to the party leadership for attacking it in Umno-linked media, Harakahdaily reported today.

According to the party organ, the former Selangor PAS chief made amends when meeting with top party leaders yesterday to retract all negative comments he had made about PAS in recent weeks.

Hasan 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.

PAS vice president Datuk Mahfuz Omar likened Hasan's repeated attacks to a "declaration of war", and told the latter he should exit the party if he did not have faith in the decisions of its leaders.

PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat said in Bachok, Kelantan today that he was grateful that Hasan was humble enough to seek forgiveness for his deeds.

"It's not easy for someone who has erred to admit his mistake and apologise, so I'm very touched by his actions," he told reporters.

Nik Aziz added that he would hold a small feast to celebrate the occasion, adding that he did not expect Umno to exploit the issue now that it has been fully resolved.

Yesterday, Hasan met with PAS deputy president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, deputy spiritual leader Datuk Dr Haron Din and Nik Aziz at the latter's official residence at JKR 10 in Kota Baru.

He was joined by former PAS deputy president Nasharudin Mat Isa, who had similarly spoken out against the party for deviating from Islamic principles.

The maverick duo had earlier been summoned by party leaders to explain their decision to air their grievances against the Islamist party in Umno-linked papers Utusan Malaysia and Berita Harian.

Hasan 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.

He had accused PAS of straying from its original struggle for an Islamic state by pushing for a welfare state, as the latter could be championed by anyone and did not have to be based on the Quran.

Hasan later apologised for his remarks, noting that he now understood the proposed welfare

state adopted in June to be the same as the Islamic state PAS has fought for since the 1970s.

But details of the welfare state would still need to be examined to ensure they were identical to those underpinning the Islamic state concept, he stressed.

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