

PAS alleges political blitz by Jais
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KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Sept — Selangor PAS has accused state's religious authorities of launching a political attack against its leadership after Dr Rani Osman had his religious credentials stripped by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais).

The state PAS chief told The Malaysian Insider that other leaders in Selangor from the Islamic party have also had their credentials, which allows them to give sermons freely in the country's richest state, revoked.

With Jais also charging deputy state chief Khalid Samad for giving a sermon without prior permission, Dr Rani said that "I believe this is politically related as elections are nearing."

"I understand that many other PAS leaders had their credentials revoked or renewals rejected. They know that PAS leaders are getting closer to the public, going to mosques and suraus, which has never happened before," the Meru assemblyman said.

PAS and Jais have been at loggerheads since the religious enforcement body was accused of trespassing into a church when it acted on a hitherto unspecified complaint that Muslims were being proselytised at an event being hosted there.

Although PAS, part of the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) coalition that governs the state, had mooted a meeting with Jais, this has been delayed indefinitely.

News of the revocation of Dr Rani's credentials and Khalid being told that he faces trial in the Syariah courts surfaced yesterday.

Khalid, who is also Shah Alam MP, has since accused Jais of conspiring with other Islamic NGOs to bring down Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim's administration.

But Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais) — which is in charge of Jais — chief Datuk Mohamad Adzib Mohd Isa swiftly denied the allegation.

Dr Rani also added that Selangor PAS will meet in its monthly meeting next week to discuss its next course of action, but that he would not stop giving sermons at mosques or suraus regardless of any action that Jais might take.

"We will meet with Jais to demand they show proof and their rationale for cancelling my credentials," he said.

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