

Hasan not accepted by PAS liberals, says Nakhaie
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By Syed Mu'az Syed Putra

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 — Datuk Hasan Ali's sacking from PAS was influenced by liberals within the Islamist opposition party, according to ex-leader Datuk Nakhaie Ahmad.

The former PAS vice-president told The Malaysian Insider yesterday of a new, more liberal leadership that has taken the place of the religious scholars.

"The source of Hasan Ali's sacking is the change within PAS... PAS's mentality now is very different, its views are more liberal, and secondly, is the change in the leadership. If before the line-up was the ulama, it is now controlled by the liberals," he said.

"Previously the ulama's leadership in PAS dealt politically on aqidah (belief in Islam) and now the approach is on how to obtain power... That is why the liberals are seen to be making the decisions," he added.

Nakhaie said Hasan's views represented the views of the ulama that were not accepted by the new line-up of leaders under Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

"Hasan Ali's view is not in line with the new leadership and represents a former era of troublemakers that is blocking the change and liberal approach PAS is now adopting.

"In a liberal leadership, the question of aqidah is clearly not the priority, they seem not as supportive of aqidah as if it had expired," he said.

Nakhaie said the ulama in the party will become "victims" like Hasan if they issue views that go against the current flow.

"If they are silent, there won't be any action against them, but if they voice their stand to set up an Islamic nation and champion aqidah such as Hasan Ali did, they will likewise be removed," he said.

Last Sunday, Hasan was sacked from PAS with immediate effect for consistently issuing statements that went against the party's stand.

The final straw appeared to be his call to PAS members to stay away from joining a rally in support of Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim last Monday when he was to learn his sodomy trial verdict day, a rally that had been endorsed by the Islamist party's president.

The Selangor lawmaker's sacking was collectively decided by the PAS central working committee.

However, Hasan has 30 days from the date of his dismissal to appeal to the party's Majlis Syura Ulama, or religious scholar's council, for reinstatement.

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