

Selangor puts Hasan on leave, no word on replacement

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By Melissa Chi

SHAH ALAM, Jan 11 — The Selangor government said today that Datuk Hasan Ali is now on leave, but that no decision was taken at today's executive council meeting on his replacement.

"(Datuk Hasan) is officially on leave," executive councillor Ronnie Liu told reporters this after the council's weekly meeting here.

The state administration was expected to discuss Hasan's portfolio as executive councillor in charge of Islamic affairs today, after his sacking from PAS on Sunday.

It previously said Hasan's position was contingent on his membership with the ruling Pakatan Rakyat.

The Malaysian Insider understands that Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim will meet Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on Friday to brief the state Ruler on the latest developments and list of suitable candidates.

Until then, executive councillors have clammed up on the matter.

"This one we wait for menteri besar to answer better," Liu said when asked if the administration had started talks of replacement.

Another exco member, Iskandar Samad, said he must receive instructions from Khalid before making any announcement.

"Let's wait for the president. I don't think I should go above the state leader. I have to wait for instruction from my president.

"There's too [much] speculation. We have a state to run," he said abruptly.

The Malaysian Insider reported earlier today that the state's PAS Youth division has named Meru assemblyman Dr Abdul Rani Osman as their choice to take Hasan's spot on the state council.

Hasan, who was sacked from PAS three days ago, is now under pressure to relinquish his position as state executive councillor in charge of Islamic affairs, Malay customs and public amenities.

Khalid previously said Hasan should voluntarily quit the post as he no longer represents PAS.

The PAS central working committee sacked Hasan as a party member on Sunday for breaching party discipline after he urged supporters to avoid Monday's rally in support of Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as his sodomy trial verdict was handed down.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had prior to that expressed the party's support for the rally.

Hasan has since blamed Anwar for his sudden sacking from PAS.

The Selangor lawmaker admitted it was likely due to his remarks about the opposition that got him the boot from the Islamist party, which is part of the state's ruling PR pact.

Earlier today, The Malaysian Insider reported PAS information chief Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man as saying Hasan has 30 days to lodge an appeal against the decision with the party's religious scholars' council, better known as the Majlis Syura Ulama.

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