

Don't join Jan 9 rally, Hasan Ali tells students
The Malaysian Insider
January 05, 2012
By Yow Hong Chieh

SHAH ALAM, Jan 5 — Datuk Hasan Ali has advised university students to stay away from the planned mammoth rally to support Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the latter's Sodomy trial verdict day.

The former PAS vice president said students were better off focusing their energies on ongoing university exams and not the opposition leader's sodomy trial, which he characterised as a "personal matter".

"Concentrate on your studies and your future... Concentrate on that and make the best on what you can," Hasan (picture) told reporters at Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) headquarters here.

"I pity Anwar but he should not make a personal issue into a national issue and drag others into it."

The former Selangor PAS chief also hit out at his successor, Dr Rani Osman, for instructing party members to attend the rally on Monday, pointing out that PAS's central leadership had yet to issue any such directive.

Rani told reporters at a press conference at PKR headquarters on Tuesday that text messages have already been sent to PAS members across the nation urging them to join the rally.

"There have been no orders, except from PJ, Selangor," Hasan said, adding that Selangor PAS was being "proactive for the wrong reasons".

He added that he will not be joining the rally and has advised his children to do the same.

The Selangor executive councillor further warned that the country risked descending into anarchy if Malaysians persisted in resorting to protests to air their grievances.

"In the end, it will be lawless. Can you imagine a country without laws, without rules and regulations," Hasan said.

Anwar was charged with sodomising a former male aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, in 2008. The High Court is set to announce its decision on Monday.

The 64-year-old grandfather faces up to 20 years in jail if found guilty, which will effectively end his political career and chance to become prime minister.

PKR has called on its members and all Pakatan Rakyat (PR) supporters to turn up in large numbers at the Jalan Duta Court Complex in Kuala Lumpur to show support for Anwar and to protest against the state's alleged political machinations.

Copyright© 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dont-join-jan-9-rally-hasan-al-i-tells-students/>