

Nik Aziz or Hadi should replace Anwar, says Hasan Ali
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SHAH ALAM, Jan 5 — PAS leaders Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat or Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang should take over as opposition leader if Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is jailed, Datuk Hasan Ali said today.

This is despite the PKR de facto leader stating in an interview with newswire Bloomberg that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has already decided on his replacement.

“If I had the power (to decide), it’s these two that I would choose,” Hasan told reporters at Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) headquarters here.

Hasan (picture) said PAS spiritual leader Nik Aziz and party president Hadi were both suited to lead the opposition pact as they were men with morals grounded in religion, which he said was necessary to lead a nation of 28 million people.

“If our morals are being questioned, how can we talk about goodness?” the former PAS vice president 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.

The former deputy prime minister told Bloomberg in an interview published yesterday that PR has put together a contingency plan should the court rule against him.

“We have decided on the leadership during elections or post-elections in the event I’m imprisoned,” he had said.

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.

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