

Hasan Ali — civil servant, politician, religious conservative
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 — Datuk Hasan Mohamed Ali should not be too disappointed at being sacked from PAS today after insisting last month he was only loyal to no man and only Allah.

The Islamist party finally drew the line at the Selangor executive councillor's labelling of tomorrow's march in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, when he will learn the verdict of his sodomy trial, a waste of time.

This follows various other controversies involving the Gombak Setia assemblyman, once a motivational and religious speaker who appeared regularly on TV3 and RTM.

Hasan's nearly four years as executive councillor in charge of Islamic affairs was marked by bans on the sale of liquor in Shah Alam's convenience stores, the barring of liquor-selling entertainment spots in Subang Jaya from hiring Muslims, and cracking down on "indecent" acts on Valentine's Day — all drawing the ire of his Pakatan Rakyat (PR) colleagues.

His last outing was a New Year's Eve raid on Laundry Bar, an entertainment outlet in Petaling Jaya, coming just weeks after criticising his party in Umno-controlled media such as Utusan Malaysia, Berita Harian and TV3 for purportedly abandoning its Islamist credentials for the sake of political gain.

Hasan (right) shakes hands with Khalid Samad in one of their more cordial moments. — File pic

His brickbats aimed at the party, which removed him as Selangor chief after its general assembly in June 2010, came after he was reportedly dropped from PAS's list of candidates for the next general elections.

"I am loyal to Allah. To mankind, in this context, I don't like to use the term loyal, but co-operate," he said on December 12 last year when asked if he would remain loyal to his party and coalition.

The saga appeared to be resolved after he was reported to have visited PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to apologise, although it was an apology he denied ever having made.

Hasan, who earned his first degree from Universiti Malaysia in 1971 and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1985, has also backed the claim that Muslims are being proselytised by Christians.

He has supported the Himpunan Sejuta Umat, or Gathering of a Million Faithful, a movement started by Muslim NGOs to "rise up to the challenge of Christianisation", and also the controversial raid by the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (JAIS) on a church in Petaling Jaya.

He also accused Christians of using solar-powered talking Bibles to convert Muslims, and

yesterday said he wanted to meet church leaders and present to them those he called "victims" of apostasy.

Hasan was born on November 28, 1947 in Klang and was a civil servant working for both the Selangor government and the Prime Minister's Department for nearly 20 years before joining politics.

He was elected assemblyman for Sungai Burung and MP for Parit Buntar in 1999 before becoming PAS vice president in 2001.

He failed to defend both seats in 2004 but became Gombak Setia assemblyman in 2008 and was restored to PAS's central working committee the next year.

Although he failed to retain his position in the central committee and was removed as Selangor chief last year, he was appointed to the party's political bureau and deputy chief of the economic and asset management bureau until being sacked today.

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