

I was sacked because of Anwar, says Hasan Ali
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By Mohd Farhan Darwis

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 — Datuk Hasan Ali has blamed Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim 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 Pakatan Rakyat (PR) pact.

"Anwar Ibrahim is the reason I was sacked," the former Selangor PAS commissioner said at news conference at his home here late last night.

Hasan (picture), who is currently still in charge of the state's Islamic and Malay affairs portfolio as well as public infrastructure and facilities, said his views on Anwar — who has been indicted twice for sodomy — were because he did not want the public to be entrapped in the PKR leader's political game.

"I don't want him to drag the public into his fight, which I feel is very dirty.

"I am not willing to support Anwar at the rally [ongoing now at the Jalan Duta court complex], I am among the few in PAS who will not make a statement on why Anwar should be prime minister," he said.

Hasan added that Anwar was not qualified to helm the country due to his "doubtful" past.

The Gombak Setia assemblyman felt PAS Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang or its spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat were better suited for the prime ministership.

Hasan also took umbrage at PKR deputy president, Azmin Ali's perceived interference in PAS's affairs and questioned the latter's right.

The self-style champion of Islam in Selangor said: "Whatever happens, whether I'm sacked, dropped or whatever, I will continue to stand up for Islam, the Malay royalty and the Malay race here."

Hasan said that was his goal, but the party leadership did not appear keen and his efforts were constantly rebuffed.

Also present at the press conference were former PAS-deputy president Nasharudin Mat Isa and Datuk Ibrahim Ali, the founder-president of right-wing Malay nationalist group Perkasa.

Nasharudin, who is a member of PAS's religious scholars' committee, slammed his own party's decision against Hasan.

"The PAS central leadership's decision to sack Dr Hasan is a drastic action that does not give him any chance to explain," he said.

Nasharudin said Hasan has 30 days to write in to the religious scholars' council and appeal against his sacking.

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