

**Mat Sabu: MB can refer to us on Islamic matters**  
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Pas believes Khalid's takeover of Islamic affairs portfolio is temporary

MARANG: Pas is not overly concerned that Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim would not be able to handle the Islamic affairs portfolio in the state although he lacked the credentials.

Its deputy president Mohamad Sabu (also known as Mat Sabu) said this was because they believed it was just a temporary measure. "The time-frame of the appointment is too short as the general election should be held by next year.

"The longest time he (Khalid) would hold on to the post would be about slightly over a year, so it is not a problem," said Mohamad, near here on Thursday night.

He also said they believed the Islamic affairs portfolio would be eventually returned to a state executive councillor representing Pas.

"Furthermore, Khalid can easily refer to Pas for advice on Islamic issues."

Khalid had on Tuesday announced that he would take over the Islamic affairs portfolio in the state executive line-up, previously held by Datuk Dr Hasan Ali who had been sacked from the party.

Meanwhile, Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said Khalid's move did not mean that Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) and DAP had lost confidence in Pas.

"We accept the decision. We (the opposition pact) govern collectively and not for individual struggles or ranks," said Hadi yesterday.

In Kota Baru, Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat hoped there will be no more sacking of top party officials after its former Selangor commissioner Datuk Dr Hasan Ali.

The menteri besar said the controversy over Hasan should end with his sacking and there should be no new issues involving other party figures.

Asked on speculations that former deputy president and Bachok member of parliament Nasharuddin Mat Isa will be the next to be sacked, Nik Aziz said: "I don't know.

"It is a different problem and not my job."

Nik Aziz was speaking to reporters after his weekly religious ceramah at the Kelantan Pas headquarters near here yesterday.

Speculations are rife that Nasharuddin will also face the music as he has been consistently supporting Hasan's views and was present at a press conference at the former's house after he was sacked.

Hasan was sacked on Jan 8 based on his actions which were deemed detrimental to the party.

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