

Hasan claims Anwar will legalise homosexuality
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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's leadership must be rejected by all Malaysians as the PKR de facto leader will do away with laws against homosexuality if elected to federal power, Datuk Dr Hasan Ali has charged.

The former Selangor PAS chief said that this was the reason why he could not work or see eye-to-eye with the opposition leader, and that Anwar's recent interview with BBC showed his "personal views."

"This is the reason why I cannot work with him. This is why Malaysians should reject Anwar.

"LGBTs (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals) to be legalised in Malaysia! God forbid! I foresee difficult times if that happens," Hasan (picture) told reporters here.

"(He) will make this 'halal'. God forbid, society will be in chaos and disarray if that happens.

"Those views in the BBC interview reflect his personal view, his stand on rights," added the Gombak Setia state assemblyman.

Within days of being acquitted of sodomising his former aide, Anwar has been accused of being a gay rights proponent, with Umno-owned papers claiming he said so during a recent BBC interview.

Utusan Malaysia's weekend news edition Mingguan Malaysia quoted the opposition leader as saying during the BBC interview that laws on gay rights in Malaysia were considered "archaic" and "not relevant."

A BBC reporter had asked Anwar whether he was prepared to push for the idea of anti-discrimination as far as gay rights were concerned, to which he had allegedly said "we will have to review some of our archaic laws."

"We Muslims and non-Muslims in Malaysia generally believe and are committed to support the sanctity of marriage between men and women, but we should not be seen to be punitive and consider the archaic law as relevant," Anwar told BBC.

But additional excerpts of what the PKR de facto leader had said were evidently left out by both Utusan and Berita Harian.

Anwar had also said Pakatan Rakyat (PR) was of the view that "we do not promote homosexuality within the public domain, and we do not need to make apologies for that."

Hasan said that Anwar's response during the interview alone showed why his reservations towards the PKR de facto leader were "legitimate."

"My goal is so noble, I feel only Allah will know," said Hasan.

He accused Anwar of being power-hungry, and made references to PR's failed September 16 coup, where Anwar had promised mass defections from Barisan Nasional MPs, especially those from Sabah and Sarawak.

"So who is power hungry, me or Anwar? I was at the pinnacle of power as an exco, but I was willing to sacrifice that," said Hasan.

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