

**PAS defends sacking, says Hasan was on warpath**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 — PAS has defended its sacking of Datuk Dr Hasan Ali, with one leader saying today the Selangor assemblyman's attacks against the Islamist party left it with "no other choice."

PAS central committee member Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said Hasan's criticism against the party and its policies left the leadership with little choice but utilise provisions in the party's constitution to expel him.

Citing Article 82 (9) of the party charter, Dzulkefly said the central working committee was authorised to directly penalise members for "special and major" offences.

"What could be worse than waging war against party's aspiration, decision and policies?" he told The Malaysian Insider.

Former Selangor PAS chief Hasan said today he will embark on a nationwide tour "soon" to explain what he claims are the true reasons behind his "unjust" sacking from the Islamist party.

Speaking at a press conference at his home, Hasan charged that his dismissal came a day after PKR deputy president Azmin Ali had attacked him for discouraging students from attending a gathering in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim last week.

Hasan said the expulsion went against any "normal procedures", and that it was undemocratic and "autocratic" of the PAS leadership to not give him a chance to defend himself against accusations that he was not then aware of.

In response, Dzulkefly pointed out that Hasan had ample opportunity to "correct and redeem" himself for his actions, but failed to do so.

"Hasan had all avenues... including meeting a senior member of the Majlis Syura Ulama sent to see him.

"But he even refused to see him... on numerous occasions he levelled caustic allegations against PAS, accusing us of deviating from our struggle in Barisan Nasional media including our Negara Berkebijakan document which was endorsed in the PAS Muktamar, the party's highest authority," he added.

Hasan had also claimed that "parasites" had infiltrated the party, causing the leadership to "bow down" to their demands and compromise PAS's Islamic struggles.

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