

Rani likely to replace Hasan Ali, says Selangor PAS
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By Syed Mu'az Syed Putra

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 — Selangor PAS said today its chief Dr Abd Rani Osman is the likeliest candidate to replace Datuk Hasan Ali in the state executive council, dismissing rumours of a rift with the palace.

Its secretary Mohd Khairuddin Othman told The Malaysian Insider today there were no issues between Abd Rani (picture) and Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah that could jeopardise the Selangor PAS commissioner's chance of being appointed to the state executive council (exco) tomorrow.

"We respect the palace and we have good relations... there is no problem at all, we have never had any problem at all with the palace and there are no issues with the Selangor PAS leadership.

"In fact, there have been no problems with the views presented by Dr Abd Rani; we are always careful of our relations with the palace and I feel this issue was deliberately raised to influence the palace [in making a decision]," he said, responding to a report in Umno-owned Utusan Malaysia published today.

The Malay-language paper reported that Abd Rani was facing difficulties in gaining the Sultan's agreement for his appointment due to issues such as getting state authorisation to teach Islam and his criticism over the distribution of the Selangor Islamic Council's (MAIS) zakat aid to the Perlis government.

In Malaysia, those who wish to teach Islam must get proper authorisation or "tauliah" from the individual state authorities.

"Those are just rumours, we ask such stories or speculation to stop... we leave it up to the menteri besar and Tuanku to evaluate," Mohd Khairuddin said.

Utusan had also named Sijangkang assemblyman Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi as the likeliest person to represent PAS in the state exco instead of Abd Rani, to replace the sacked Hasan.

But Mohd Khairuddin rubbished the report.

"We (Selangor PAS) had unanimously nominated the commissioner to replace Dr Hasan and so far we see no problems with our suggestion.

"We only gave one name to the PAS central leadership, but we have yet to get the latest update from them or the menteri besar."

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim has said he will announce Hasan's replacement tomorrow when the candidate is sworn in at the Istana Bukit Kayangan in Shah Alam.

Abd Rani is known to be the state Islamist party's preferred candidate to replace Hasan who

was sacked from PAS on January 8 for repeatedly going against the party's stand.

Hasan, who was in charge of the state's Islamic affairs, Malay customs, infrastructure and public amenities, also lost his right to represent PAS in the state government.

He is not seen to appeal his surprise removal from the party to the Majlis Syura Ulama (religious scholars' council) despite having 30 days until February 7.

Hasan remains the assemblyman for Gombak Setia but is currently unaffiliated.

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