

**Ibrahim Ali: Khalid will turn blind eye to 'immoral' businesses for votes**  
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**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 — Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim took over Selangor's Islamic affairs portfolio to enable operators of "immoral" businesses to carry on their trade despite opposition from Muslims, Datuk Ibrahim Ali said today.

The Perkasa chief claimed the Selangor menteri besar's was not done to uphold the interests of Muslims but was instead a political ploy to curry favour with this group of business owners as snap polls loom.

"It is purely because he wants to make sure that anything related to Islamic issues in Selangor will be carried out for the sake of political interests...

"Definitely the operators of these things are not happy I can't see another reason for him to take over the Islamic affairs portfolio," Ibrahim told The Malaysian Insider here.

The Malay rights leader also suggested that Datuk Dr Hasan Ali, who held the portfolio before Khalid, was removed as he had irked owners of entertainment centres, spas, gambling dens and alcohol shops.

"That wouldn't have work in the interests of Pakatan's politics," he said, adding that Khalid would now turn a blind eye to such activities in the state.

Earlier this month, Hasan was sacked from PAS and dropped from the Selangor executive committee for breaching party discipline.

He was axed for urging opposition supporters to avoid the rally on January 9 in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the day his sodomy trial verdict was handed down by the High Court here.

Hasan's Islamic affairs portfolio was taken over by Khalid (picture), who also appointed PAS lawmaker Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi to take Hasan's place on the committee.

Berita Harian has criticised Khalid's move as "a slap in the face" to PAS, which had many clerics who were better qualified to take up the Islamic affairs portfolio.

Ibrahim today similarly described Hasan's sacking and Khalid's decision to take over the portfolio as two "really big blows" to PAS, and called it "a loss for Islam and a win for sodomy".

"As a Muslim, he (Khalid) won't do a good job but politically, he might do a good job," the Pasir Mas MP added.

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