

Khalid's Islamic affairs move 'insult' to PAS, says Berita Harian
The Malaysian Insider
January 22 , 2012
By Yow Hong Chieh

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 22 — Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim's decision to take the Islamic affairs portfolio from PAS is an insult to the Islamist party and shows that PAS has deviated from its founding ideals, Berita Harian said today.

In an editorial, the Malay-language daily questioned the Selangor menteri besar's Islamic credentials and characterised the move as an example of how PAS leaders have allowed "parasites" within the party to lead it astray.

The Malay-language daily today questioned the Selangor menteri besar's Islamic credentials. — file pic
Last week, Khalid took over the Selangor Islamic affairs portfolio from sacked PAS executive committee member, Datuk Dr Hasan Ali.

The maverick PAS veteran was axed for urging opposition supporters to avoid the January 9 rally in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as the latter's sodomy trial verdict was handed down.

"The action clearly shows that opposition leaders look down on PAS clerics, to the point where Hasan has said that PAS's dignity has not only been insulted but trampled upon by certain parties," Berita Harian said.

"Isn't the act a slap in the face and an embarrassment for PAS leaders? Ever since PAS joined the opposition with PKR and DAP, many...decisions by the PAS leadership have not been in line with what party members want."

The paper also criticised PAS leaders for allowing "parasites" within the party to strengthen their influence, despite the fact that this would lead to the downfall of PAS.

"We cannot discount the possibility that the PAS leadership knows what is going on but finds it hard to act as some of them (parasites) are PAS leaders themselves," it said.

"The result is every stand and decision made by PAS has prioritised its partners in the opposition to the point where the party is willing to abandon its interests and policies."

Khalid said on Thursday that he took up the Selangor government's Islamic affairs portfolio as it was more "convenient" than handing it over to a relatively inexperienced Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi.

PAS lawmaker Yunus was sworn in the day before to replace Hasan in the state executive committee.

Hasan oversaw Islamic affairs and Malay customs prior to being sacked from the Islamist party. Yunus retained the latter portfolio and has taken over the youth and sports portfolio.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/khalids-islamic-affairs-move-insult-to-pas-says-berita-harian/>