

I don't respect ulama who insult others, says PAS man
The Malaysian Insider
Feb 24, 2015

A PAS central committee member whose was criticised for remarks against the party's influential ulama (Muslim scholars) is saying he has lost all respect for those who attack and insult other members.

Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said he could no longer respect those who called themselves scholars or religious teachers but liked to label and denigrate others.

"I was referring to those who called themselves ulama but who do not act like ulama and constantly insult and label their own members," said Dr Dzulkefly, who is PAS research director.

Scholars and religious teachers are respected in PAS. The party adopted a leadership doctrine since the 1980s which ensured that those occupying senior positions were scholars.

Divisions in the country's largest opposition party have widened ahead of its party elections in June, where its conservatives and progressives will have the final showdown for control of the party.

The result of the PAS elections will likely determine whether it stays in the Pakatan Rakyat coalition or not.

In a previous report, Dr Dzulkefly said he was upset by a gathering of PAS ulama in Serdang on February 21 which saw many of its speakers criticizing other PAS members.

Many of their targets were PAS leaders who had questioned the decisions of PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Several choice words were also used for PAS members seen as being involved with Persatuan Ummah Sejahtera Malaysia (PasMa), a group made up of PAS activists campaigning for the party to remain with Pakatan Rakyat.

Dr Dzulkefly's comments on the gathering have been taken by some in PAS as being an attack on all its scholars.

A poster with his comments superimposed on the pictures of PAS's senior ulama is currently making the rounds among PAS circles.

"I do not fear their threats. If before I respected ulama, I have now lost that sense of respect," said Dr Dzulkefly, who stressed the comments were directed at scholars who insulted others. – February 24, 2015.

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