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Bankruptcy notice: Exco man urged to sue company

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MALACCA, Tues. - State Culture, Tourism and Environment Committee chairman Datuk Poh Ah Tiam has been urged to take legal action against a company to clear his name over a bankruptcy notice allegedly filed against him.

Kota Melaka MP Lim Guan Eng said Poh should sue the company, Upha Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd.

Lim said a bankruptcy notice filed against an important person like an Assemblyman or a State Exco member was a serious issue.

"Being a politician and a public figure as well, Poh should do everything possible to clear his name. Furthermore, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that a leader must not only be clean but seen as clean.

"Therefore, to clear the State Exco's name, he should take the initiative to sue the company which had mistakenly filed a bankruptcy notice against him," he said.

Lim added that Poh should not criticise the DAP for bringing up the issue as it was just doing its job as an Opposition party.

"He (Poh) should in fact be angry at the company for mistakenly filing the notice and take legal action against it in a bid to overturn the decision made by the Shah Alam magistrate's court on Nov 9, 1989."

He said suing the company would clear his (Poh's) name.

A bankruptcy notice against Poh was published in the Nanyang Siang Pau newspaper on June 14 following a decision by the Malacca High Court on Nov 7, 1995 requiring him to pay RM31,395.72 to Upha, a company based in Bangi, Selangor, being the amount owed plus interests.

Poh was alleged to have been one of four directors of All In Marketing (M) Sdn Bhd.

The magistrate's court in Shah Alam had directed Poh and another director, Cha Choon Hey to each pay RM18,790.20 together with interest at eight per cent per annum from July 8, 1987 to the date of realisation and RM571 in costs.

Following his failure to pay the amount, the matter was brought to the High Court.

Yesterday Poh said that he had no intention of suing the DAP nor the company for defamation as "to me, this is too small a matter".

"I have other better things to do than waste my time on this which is not even an issue.

"The DAP is playing on it just because it has nothing else better to do," Poh said, adding that he would rather spend time serving his constituents.

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