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Rafidah on what Wanita should've done

Kasmiah Mustapha

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Former Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the new leadership should have taken the initiative to appoint a new secretary and a treasurer the moment it took over last October.

She said the former secretary and treasurer should have been removed as trustees of the accounts by the new leadership.

"They should have removed the old signatories during the first meeting and replaced them with new trustees... meaning a new secretary and treasurer."

The International Trade and Industry Minister was speaking after opening the Plaza Business Centre.

The Umno supreme council has ordered an investigation into Wanita Umno's accounts following complaints by party members.

Party treasurer Tun Daim Zainuddin, who is studying the accounts, will be submitting a report to the supreme council.

Although it was reported that the accounts currently under scrutiny were those kept by previous office bearers, Rafidah said on Sunday that she should not be included in the investigation since the matter did not concern previous office bearers.

Rafidah said today that problems had arisen as no new office bearers were appointed and that the supreme council was investigating whether any money had been withdrawn without any official authorisation.

She added that she did not have to give any further explanations on the matter as she had already done so in letters to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Daim.

"I have explained everything in the letters regarding the account statements up to Aug 28 (last year). That was the last meeting which I attended before the party election (in October)."

Rafidah said of Aug 28, Wanita Umno's account amounted to RM1.8 million.

Asked on Tan Sri Muhammad Taib's action in retaining his Umno vice-presidency, she said he should relinquish the post as it was also an elected position.

"He should resign as vice president. However, he may have reasons to retain the post and maybe resign later."

Muhammad, who resigned as Selangor Menteri Besar today, also stepped down as Selangor and Federal Territory Umno liaison chief and Selangor and Federal Territory Barisan Nasional chairman.

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