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Sabbaruddin: Family members of leaders can do business

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Family members of Government leaders and employees should not be barred from being involved in business and making money, said Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik today.

He said there was nothing to stop family members of those holding positions in the Government from making money as long as it was done within the bounds of law.

"If you disallow children of government members from getting a job or being involved in business just because they are related to someone with position and power, then how are they going to survive? It's not fair.

"You don't expect the government members on their meagre salary to continue to monetarily support their family members all their life, do you?" he told reporters at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kepong today.

Sabbaruddin was commenting on Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang's report to the Anti-Corruption Agency against Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik's son for allegedly acquiring shares worth RM1.2 billion with ministerial influence.

Sabbaruddin, who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, said the allegations that there were government members who abused their position to help those they favour were merely allegations.

"Have you got proof that they were abusing their position to help their family's business?" he asked.

However, Sabbaruddin said Government leaders should not use their positions to help their kin or friends to get business contracts or give them unfair advantage in business.

No one, he said, should use the name or position of Government leaders to gain favour or further their ends, especially in business.

He was commenting on incidents of some people using the names of ministers including the name of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to get mileage in business dealings.

Sabbaruddin is against government members getting involved in business. He said if they do, then they should resign from their post and concentrate on their business.

"Government members have always been expected not to get involved in business," he said.

Sabbaruddin was at FRIM to attend the city's Sons of Pahang Charity Association's Family Day which was attended by more than 500 city dwellers from Pahang.

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