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Call for Waad to quit Exco post

Kamarulzaman Salleh

KUALA PILAH, Fri. - Kuala Pilah Umno division chief Datuk Abu Zahar Ujang today blamed Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad for the reappointment of Gemencheh Assemblyman Datuk Waad Mansor as State Executive Councillor.

He also called for Waad's resignation, saying that Waad should have the moral courage to step down from the post as he had yet to be cleared of the five corruption charges brought against him by the Anti-Corruption Agency.

"Although he was acquitted on three counts of corruption, the case is still not settled since the ACA has filed an appeal against the acquittal," said Abu Zahar, who is a lawyer by profession.

Furthermore, he said, there were two other corruption charges still pending against Waad.

He said since Mohamad Isa had proposed Waad's name as an Exco member to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he should have informed Dr Mahathir about Waad's case.

Abu Zahar said Dr Mahathir could not check the background of all the candidates because of the time factor. Thus, he should not be blamed for approving the appointment.

"I make the statement today in my capacity as a division chief. It is not the stand of my division," he told a Press conference at the division office.

Also present were the division's Wanita chief Datuk Napsiah Omar, who is Kuala Pilah Member of Parliament, her deputy Mazibah Mohd Zin, and several Umno branch heads under the division.

However, all the five State representatives under the Kuala Pilah parliament were not present.

They are Juasseh Assemblyman Hassan Malek, vice head of the division, information chief Datuk Darus Salim Bulin (Johol), committee members Ibrahim Jahaya (Seri Menanti) and Norhayati Omar (Pilah) as well as division youth chief Ismail Lasim (Senaling).

The controversy pertaining to Waad's reappointment began when the Lenggeng Assemblyman walked out of the swearing-in ceremony of the Menteri Besar and Exco members at Istana Besar Seri Menanti here last Monday.

Waad was among five Exco members retained by Mohamad Isa who were sworn in with the new faces before the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan Tuanku Jaafar.

Ishak had protested against Waad's reappointment in view of the corruption case.

Mohamad Isa subsequently reacted to Ishak's criticism saying it was baseless and should not be taken seriously.

The Menteri Besar's statement drew criticism from the Seremban Umno Youth led by its chief Othman Mohamad who supported Ishak's action.

Napsiah also supported Ishak's walkout action and called for Waad's resignation yesterday.

Abu Zahar said he fully supported Ishak and Napsiah's criticism over Waad's reappointment.

On the selection of candidates for the general election, he said, Mohamad Isa as the State Umno chief had acted as if divisional leaders were no longer relevant.

Describing Mohamad Isa as a dictator, he said the Menteri Besar had made

his decisions without discussing it with division heads.

He said the Umno supreme council should view the matter seriously in view of the problems affecting the party now.

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