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Party leaders can resolve problems

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SEREMBAN, Fri. - Seremban Umno division chief and Lenggeng Assemblyman Datuk Ishak Ismail said today the national party leadership was capable of resolving problems affecting Umno divisions in the State.

He said the Umno leadership was well versed with issues arising from the controversial re-appointment of former State Executive Councillor Datuk Waad Mansor and the selection of candidates for the Nov 29 general election.

"The party leadership is capable of handling the issues and solving the problems within the State Umno," he said after the swearing-in of State Assemblymen at the State Legislative Assembly.

Ishak was asked to comment on a call by Jelebu Umno division chief Yunus Rahmat for Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad to explain the reason behind the re-appointment of Waad as an Exco member on Dec 13 and his subsequent resignation five days later.

Mohamad Isa had earlier declined to comment on the statement by Yunus.

Ishak had caused a stir when he walked out of the swearing-in ceremony of the Menteri Besar and State Exco members at Istana Besar Seri Menanti, Kuala Pilah when Waad was called to take his oath.

Yunus, who is former Jelebu Member of Parliament, said the controversy surrounding Waad's reappointment had been questioned not only by Umno members and leaders but also the public.

In a statement issued yesterday, Yunus had said Mohamad Isa's explanation would help clear the controversy and assure the public that the formation of the State Exco was not aimed at serving the interest of any particular person.

In supporting the call by Yunus, Ishak said Umno members and the public had also questioned Waad's candidacy in the general election.

"There were Assemblymen with clean track records and no cases in court being dropped from the general election while Waad who had two corruption cases pending was considered," he said.

Furthermore, he said, the Anti-Corruption Agency had also filed an appeal against Waad's acquittal in the Seremban High Court on three counts of corruption last October.

Ishak said the party leadership could have been misled over the matter thus an explanation over these controversies was necessary.

On claims that he had not used party channels to solve party problems, he said he had wanted to convey the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Langkawi recently.

"However, I was unable to do so although I managed to shake hands with him at the airport as he was very busy with the LIMA (Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace) exhibition," he added.

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