

Perlis Govt to inform PM about errant assemblyman

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KANGAR: The state government will send a letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over problems related to Beseri State Assemblyman Zahidi Zainul Abidin's alleged failure to perform his duties and open criticism of the state leadership.

State Assembly Speaker Abdul Azib Saad said a meeting chaired by Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim yesterday reached a unanimous decision to send the letter to the Barisan Nasional chairman.

"The letter will explain to Dr Mahathir problems that cropped up in Beseri as Zahidi was not only not doing his duties but also criticising Shahidan's position as mentri besar," he told a press conference here.

He claimed Zahidi was absent from many official functions and meetings and failed to co-operate with the state government.

The Mentri Besar's Office had received many complaints from constituents in Beseri of difficulties in trying to meet Zahidi over numerous problems, he added.

He said the meeting also decided that former Beseri state assemblyman Nordin Abdullah be appointed to carry out party work and handle the problems of the people in Beseri.

Azib also alleged that Zahidi had been criticising Shahidan incessantly, claiming that he wanted to replace Shahidan as the Perlis Mentri Besar.

He claimed Zahidi also used Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's name and gave the impression that he was backed by the Deputy Prime Minister "and this tarnishes the Barisan government."

Zahidi, however, said Azib had no right to level accusations against him since he did not hold any party position.

"Who is he? I will only respond if such comments are uttered by elected representatives or by Shahidan," he said in Kuala Lumpur.