

No truth to rumours Kedah MB will be replaced, says PM

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ALOR STAR, Sun. — There is absolutely no truth in speculation and rumours that Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain plans to resign or would be replaced, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"There's nothing. I don't know why there are such speculations. I haven't heard anything ... where did you all hear all this?" he questioned.

When asked if he was satisfied with Syed Razak's performance as Menteri Besar, Dr Mahathir said:

"Well, I'm not dissatisfied. I think he's done quite a good job ... it's all right. There's no truth at all (about him being replaced or resigning)."

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on speculations in the state and in some newspapers that Syed Razak would be replaced.

He was speaking to reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas, near here, before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after attending the investiture ceremony at Istana Anak Bukit in conjunction with the Sultan of Kedah's 73rd birthday.

Rumours have been rife that Syed Razak would be replaced following Barisan Nasional's defeat to Parti Keadilan Nasional in the Lunas by-election on Nov 29 last year.

Syed Razak, who is Kubang Rotan Assemblyman, was appointed the sixth Kedah Menteri Besar in December 1999, replacing Tan Sri Sanusi Junid.

Speaking to reporters later, Syed Razak said he wished to thank the Prime Minister for clarifying his position.

Asked how he felt now that the issue could be laid to rest, he said:

"I don't feel anything ... I'll carry on with the job at hand."

On why such speculation started, he said he himself was uncertain.

Syed Razak said while development in the State would be his priority, he would also spend more time in strengthening Umno this year.

Among the steps to be taken include visits to all the 15 Umno divisions in the State.