

29 MAR 2001

Fauzi-Resignation

FAUZI TO SUBMIT RESIGNATION LETTER TODAY

KUANTAN, March 30 (Bernama) -- State Assemblyman for Beserah Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman will submit his letter of resignation to vacate his state assembly seat to Pahang Umno Liaison chairman Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob later today.

Fauzi, 55, said he decided to vacate the Beserah state assembly seat after the majority of the Umno branches in Beserah did not nominate him to defend the post of Kuantan Umno division head in the party election next month.

"This means that there are Umno branches in Beserah which have rejected my leadership. When Umno branches in Beserah have rejected me, it implies that they don't endorse what I have done for the constituency and reject my services or what I have done," he said at a media conference after meeting Adnan at the Menteri Besar's official residence, here.

It is learnt that Fauzi's decision to tender his resignation letter was made after he was said to have failed to obtain at least 13 nominations from the 65 Umno branches in the Kuantan division to enable him to defend his post as the division head.

A candidate must garner 20 per cent nominations from the total number of branches in the division to enable him to contest for the post of division head.

According to the Kuantan Umno division office, Fauzi had so far managed to secure only nine nominations to contest for the post of Kuantan Umno head while Kuantan vice-head Datuk Faisal Abdullah received 29 nominations and deputy head Datuk Wan Adnan Wan Mamat had 20 nominations.

Fauzi felt that the move not to nominate him to defend his post would only be to the detriment of the people of Beserah as they had an assemblyman whom they could not accept while he was wasting his time doing work which was not acceptable to the constituents.

"On this basis, I feel it's better for me to step down as the assemblyman for Beserah, unless there is an investigation by the authorities and it is found that there are other elements involved such as corruption and so on.

"If the Beserah Umno reject me because of my inadequacy, they will only be wasting their time in having a state assemblyman who is not compatible or not bringing any benefit to them," he said.

On his meeting with Adnan, who is also Pahang Menteri Besar, Fauzi said he was called up by Adnan to seek clarification on rumours that he was leaving Umno.

He said he held the principle that "he rose through Umno. When I rise through Umno...it is Umno that will decide my position."

Fauzi said his resignation letter had been prepared and according to procedure, as a state assemblyman he must submit it to the State Umno Liaison chairman.

Asked why he had not lodged a report with the Umno Disciplinary Committee, he said he was not the type who liked to complain, on the contrary he preferred to make a police report which he described as "the first of many."

He referred to the police report which he made at the Kuantan District Police Headquarters at about 3pm on Wednesday against Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob whom he alleged had been involved with misappropriation of state resources when he was the Pahang Menteri

Besar.

He said he reported the matter to the police because what he reported had nothing to do with the party, on the contrary, it concerned state resources.

"After 1 year and 2 months (of being a state assemblyman) I know what the rakyat feel and what the rakyat have been deprived of. As a state assemblyman, I was involved with the state administration and I feel the acts (misappropriation) were detrimental (to the people)," he said.

In his police report, Fauzi claimed that Khalil, who is also the member of parliament for Kuantan, had committed malpractices while he was Pahang Menteri Besar, including awarding timber concessions in a manner which was not according to procedure.

"His actions had affected state resources and the cash flow of the present state government. It also denied the people in the Beserah state constituency and the people in the state of Pahang of their rights to receive their proper allocation," he said.

Khalil was the Pahang Menteri Besar for 13 years since 1986 before being made Information Minister upon winning the Kuantan parliamentary seat during the last general election.

Pahang Police Chief Datuk Mohd Noor Hamat confirmed that police had received the report.

Meanwhile, Adnan said that he could not make any comment as he had yet to see the contents of the letter.

However, he said if he did receive the letter, he would make a study based on certain reports whether the number of nominations received by Fauzi truly reflected that his leadership was being rejected.

"We must look into the matter because from the reports we received so far, Datuk Fauzi had discharged his responsibilities excellently as the Beserah assemblyman. As the MB, I am very satisfied with his performance," he said.

He said the matter would be forwarded to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to arrive at a common decision.

He said he would make his recommendations to Dr Mahathir to consider in case it was found that the constituents in Beserah still required Fauzi's services.

When asked for his decision upon receiving the resignation letter, Adnan said he could not decide immediately as he had to give time to Fauzi, at least for a "cooling off period".

-- BERNAMA

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