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Fauzi stands by police report

Azran Aziz; Joniston Bangkuai; Firdaus Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Kuantan Umno division chief Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman said today he would not withdraw his police report against party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

"I have no intention to withdraw it as it contains important matters that ought to be investigated," Fauzi said.

Speaking to the New Straits Times at his residence here, Fauzi said the authorities must be allowed to carry out their duties without interference.

He said his report contained "basic facts" which, if investigated, would show malpractices that had incurred losses to the Pahang Government running into millions of ringgit.

"I'm not alleging that Khalil benefited from these acts," he said.

"All I'm saying is that Pahang has lost a considerable amount of revenue from timber concessions."

It is understood Kuantan police have confiscated several documents from a company reportedly linked to the report.

Fauzi, the former Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, also called for the inclusion of Anti-Corruption Agency officials and the police in Umno's ad hoc committee to investigate money politics and misuse of power in the Kuantan Umno division.

Asked if he had confidence in the committee, Fauzi said: "I still have my reservations. I think it would be better if they could include authorities such as the police and ACA."

Fauzi, who has been an Umno member for over 30 years, urged party members and leaders, especially those in Pahang, to view his actions with wisdom.

He said though some were very vocal and have accused him of creating problems for the party, his intentions are noble.

"The party president (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) (made) repeated calls to weed out undesirable elements, specifically money politics, from Umno.

"I'm only contributing my part to this endeavour.

"So, it's wrong to say that I'm attempting to damage or tarnish the image of the party."

Fauzi said such allegations could be true if he had switched to another party and remained an elected representative.

"Allegations that I'm contemplating to join the opposition now is also ridiculous as I would have done so without having to quit my seat.

"Now if (Pahang Umno liaison chief) Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob accepts my resignation, then I cannot stand in any election for five years. Why would I want to do such a thing?"

Earlier today, Fauzi confirmed that he had an audience with the Sultan of Pahang on Friday in connection with his intention to resign as Beserah State Assemblyman.

"I was summoned to Istana Mahkota. During the meeting, the Ruler made it clear that he did not wish to meddle in politics.

"He, however, reminded me that unity among his subjects should be given priority."

Fauzi added that the Sultan had summoned him to the palace because the Ruler had wanted to hear from the "horse's mouth" what had transpired.

"It is better this way because if the Sultan were to hear the

information from a third party, then it might be inaccurate.

"I can understand his concern as the State ruler because this involves his subjects."

Fauzi met Adnan on Thursday night and on Friday, handed in his resignation letter.

In Labuan, Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said four of the 12 Umno disciplinary board members would sit on the ad hoc committee investigating Fauzi's allegations.

"We want the committee to start the investigation as soon as possible," he said at a Press conference after opening the Labuan Umno division meeting.

Dr Mahathir said the decision to carry out the investigation was made in view of Fauzi's public statement on the issue.