

30 MAR 2001

Mahathir-Fauzi

NOT LOGICAL FOR FAUZI TO RESIGN AS ASSEMBLYMAN, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA PILAH, March 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman's move to resign as the state assemblyman for Beserah is not logical because he was elected by the people.

However, the prime minister said he could not stop assemblymen if they chose to resign.

"On that premise, it is not logical but sometimes some people want to resign, what could we do?" he told reporters after having a closed-door meeting with Kuala Pilah and Tampin Umno division leaders here today.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on Fauzi's decision to give up the Beserah seat because he did not receive enough nominations to defend the Kuantan Umno division chief's post in party elections next month.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said he had not yet received the decision of Fauzi on this matter.

"Actually, we have not yet received his decision, so we have to wait," Dr Mahathir said.

Fauzi's special secretary Noor Ferizli Nordin handed over his resignation letter to the political secretary to Pahang Menteri Besar, Samsuddin Nawawi, at Fauzi's residence in Bandar Indera Mahkota in Kuantan at about 3pm today.

The letter, addressed to Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob in his capacity as Pahang Umno chief, expresses Fauzi's wish to give up the seat which he won in the 1999 general election.

Yesterday, Fauzi said he decided to relinquish the seat after the majority of Umno branches in Beserah did not nominate him to defend the post of Kuantan division chief in elections next month.

He received only nine nominations compared to 29 for division vice-chief Datuk Faisal Abdullah and 20 for division deputy chief Datuk Wan Adnan Wan Mamat.

Dr Mahathir also questioned the timing of Fauzi's allegations on money politics in Beserah.

"Why only raise it now?...This matter happened earlier," he said.

Two days ago, Fauzi lodged a police report against Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob on alleged irregularities in the management of state resources in Pahang when Khalil was the Menteri Besar.

Khalil, when met at the same function here, said it was not proper for him to comment on the police report since he was implicated in the matter.

"Because I am implicated, because my name is implicated, it is better for the comment to come from the higher-ups," he said.

Asked what might have prompted Fauzi to lodge the report, he said: "If I meet him, I will ask him, God willing.

"We are in the same area, God willing I will ask him, discuss with him."

Asked if it was proper of Umno leaders to threaten to resign just because they did not get enough nominations to contest in party elections, Khalil said: "That we will see later."

"I have not met him (Fauzi), I do not know. This we have to discuss," said Khalil, who is Information Minister.

When asked whether he hoped Fauzi would withdraw his resignation, Khalil said he had yet to get the latest reports on the matter.

Asked whether he regretted Fauzi's action, Khalil said: "No, when I meet him later we can discuss to find out the actual situation."

-- BERNAMA
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