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Only Speaker can declare Beserah seat vacant

KUANTAN, Fri. - Only the Pahang State Legislative Assembly Speaker can declare that the Beserah State constituency is vacant after he has received the resignation letter from the elected representative Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman.

Speaker Datuk Wan Razali Wan Mahussin said he could only make the declaration after receiving the letter from Fauzi or State Umno liaison chief Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, or their representatives.

He said under the procedure, a State Assemblyman wanting to vacate his seat must send the resignation letter to the Speaker. "In this case, Fauzi sent it to Adnan."

Meanwhile, State Election Commission officer Mohd Safian Ismail said the date for a by-election could be fixed after the commission had been informed by the State Legislative Speaker that the seat had become vacant.

"We will start making the necessary preparations once we have received the official letter from Wan Razali," he said.

He said the electoral roll gazetted in November showed that Beserah had 23,790 registered voters.

In Kuala Pilah, Umno secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said he would leave it to the party leadership to comment on the police report lodged against him by Beserah State Assemblyman Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman.

He said he could not say anything about the matter since his name had been mentioned in the allegations. Khalil said this after a meeting between Dr Mahathir and Kuala Pilah and Tampin Umno division leaders today.

Asked why Fauzi had decided to relinquish his Beserah State seat, Khalil, who is also Information Minister, said he hoped to meet Fauzi to discuss the matter.

I will make an effort to see Fauzi. Unless I speak to him, I cannot clarify anything on the matter."

Fauzi is Kuantan division chief while Khalil, the former Paya Besar division head, is now an ordinary member in the Tanjung Lumpur branch under Kuantan division. Khalil is MP for Kuantan.

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