

29 MAY 2001

Syed Razak-Memo

SYED RAZAK DENIES RECEIVING PROTEST MEMO FROM UMNO BRANCHES

BUKIT KAYU HITAM, May 29 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain today denied receiving a protest memorandum signed by 114 Umno branch chiefs in the Baling division.

The memorandum disputed the appointment of Raja Datuk Ariffin Raja Sulaiman as the Baling division chief in place of Datuk Zainol Md Isa who lost his post after being found guilty of indulging in money politics in the recent party divisional elections.

"They did not hand me anything. Not a letter or a memorandum, nothing," Syed Razak told reporters after he was briefed on the Kota Perdana project here today.

A newspaper report said 114 Umno branch chiefs in the Baling division had submitted the memorandum to Syed Razak during his meeting with the division's committee yesterday.

A spokesman for the group, Wan Mahmud Wan Ibrahim, who is the Kampung Tiak Umno branch head and a member of the division's committee, said the party's constitution stated that the deputy chief or vice chief must be made acting division chief in the event the division chief could not carry out his duties.

Syed Razak rejected the notion that the appointment of Raja Ariffin had become an issue in the division.

"Some Umno members questioned the appointment but I have already clarified. Umno members in Baling have to abide by the decision of the Umno Supreme Council," he said.

In the Baling Umno divisional elections last month, Zainol defeated Raja Ariffin, the incumbent, for the division chief's post.

Contacted today, Wan Mahmud expressed regret that Syed Razak did not acknowledge receiving the memorandum.

Wan Mahmud claimed he had handed over the memorandum to Syed Razak at the entrance of the Baling Umno building after yesterday's meeting.

"I personally handed over the memorandum to the Menteri Besar at 3pm," he said.

Wan Mahmud said the memorandum handed over to Syed Razak was only a copy as the original had been sent three days ago to Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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