

# 'Face-to-face meeting should help end saga'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Former chief *imam* of the National Mosque Taib Azzamuddin and Datuk Zainuddin Maidin should just meet face-to-face and settle the issue of "the big secret" once and for all, said Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

He believes this is the best way to resolve the seemingly unending saga between the two.

Zainuddin has been challenging Taib to disclose a secret which he claimed would correct misconceptions and dismiss all allegations against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Taib, whose initial response was his "disclosure" of alleged sexual misconduct of 12 Umno leaders, has been insisting that he does not know what the "big secret" is.

Muhammad said that Zainuddin and Taib "have left us hanging".

"We want to know what the big secret is all about. Taib should have the courage to reveal what he knows, including the names of the 12 Umno leaders he mentioned"

Pas information chief Azizan Abdul Razak, however, believes it to be a personal matter which is up to both Taib, who is Baling Member of Parliament, and Zainuddin, who is Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary, to resolve.

It is believed the "big secret" concerns a lecturer who confessed to certain sinful acts he was involved in. The confession was made to Taib at the National Mosque in 1998.

At a May 7 Press conference where he was supposed to reveal the "big secret", Taib instead disclosed cases alleging sexual misconduct of Umno leaders.

Meanwhile, Zainuddin said he was still waiting for Taib to contact him to arrange a meeting, adding that the meeting itself would only be between him and Taib. Zainuddin also said Taib was being hypocritical for saying he wanted to adhere to Islamic principles and not smear other people's names, yet at the same time reveal the cases of the 12 Umno leaders.