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Poison pen letter against MB via SMS

ALOR STAR, Tues. - Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain has fallen victim to poison pen letters spread via the short messaging system (SMS).

An SMS claiming that Syed Razak had been asked by the Prime Minister to step down from his post had been distributed all over the country.

The sender purportedly claimed to be a member of Pas Kedah and usually asks the receiver to pass the message to other party members.

It is believed that the SMS had been making its rounds for the past three days.

The original text which was received by a NST reporter here read: "Panas,..!!Syed Razak di arah letak jawatan MB secepat mungkin oleh PM. Sebarkan segera kpd semua ahli Pas seluruh Malaysia. Berita sah Ta sah".

("Hot news: Syed Razak has been asked to resign as MB as soon as possible by PM. Spread this to all Pas members around the country. News confirmed or unconfirmed.")

Syed Razak could not be reached for comment but his Press secretary Dr Sobri Sudin said Syed Razak was a victim of a hate campaign.

Sobri said rumours of his purported resignation had spread since last month and the SMS was the latest method employed for spreading the rumours.

"There is not a shred of truth in it. There is no reason for Syed Razak to step down as he had never been asked by the Prime Minister to do so," he said when contacted today.

"This is a trend in politics especially with news of a general election and with the recent reshuffle in the State liaison committee.

"Syed Razak will lead the Kedah Barisan Nasional in the next general election and what happens after that is up to the BN leadership."

Sobri said the Menteri Besar has already drawn up the list of BN candidates for the next general election of which 30 per cent would comprise new faces to be submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

Last Sunday, Syed Razak announced the appointment of former Kedah Exco member Datuk Abdul Rahman Ariffin as the new State Umno secretary and Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir as its new treasurer.

Meanwhile, Kedah Pas commissioner Azizan Abdul Razak said he had also received the SMS two days ago and was deluged with calls from people who had received similar messages.

"I knew as soon as I read the SMS that it is not from us. We are being made a scapegoat by some irresponsible people who want to discredit Syed Razak and we believe it could have originated from within Umno," he said when contacted at his home in Yan today.

State Criminal Investigation Department Chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Jalal Mohd Yunus said there was no report lodged over the hate mail via SMS on Syed Razak.

Syed Razak was appointed to his post, replacing Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, in 1999.