

MB to meet Khairy over statement not to defend seat
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Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Mohamad Hasan said he would meet Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin over the latter's Twitter's posting that he would stay out of the next general election.

Mohamad (right) said he would make a statement after meeting Khairy.

"Until then, it is not nice to make any statement as it would merely be a speculation," Bernama reported him as saying in Seremban today.

Khairy said on Saturday that he would take a break from politics and not defend his Rembau parliamentary seat in the next general election.

Since the New Year's Day announcement on the micro-blogging website, the usually vocal lawmaker dropped off the radar, refusing to comment when questioned by reporters.

Today, however, Khairy broke his silence since tweeting that this will be his last term as the Rembau MP.

What apparently broke the camel's back was when news of his five-week training stint with the army, scheduled to start next week, was speculated as a "boycott" of the BN campaign in the upcoming Tenang by-election.

In a brief text message reply to Malaysiakini this afternoon, Khairy rubbished claims of any boycott, explaining that the training has been scheduled long before the seat fell vacant.

"The airborne paratrooper training to fulfil my reservist requirement was set long before Tenang.

"I was the first senior BN politician in Tenang two weeks ago and I hope to get weekend leave from training to campaign in Tenang.

"The concepts of 'boycott' or merajuk do not exist in my political lexicon," Khairy (left) added.

Nomination day for the Tenang state by-election is Jan 22, while the polling date has been fixed for Jan 30.

It was previously reported that Khairy created a buzz when he tweeted that he would not be seeking re-election in the next general election.

"Hope to help win more youth support for BN in 2011 & work hard preparing for elections. Then I'm taking a break from politics. Can't wait," Khairy wrote on Twitter.

He later fired a salvo at his detractors who said that he was sulking, also on Twitter.

"You seen someone merajuk work as hard as me? Crossed 21 parliamentary kawasan, five states in six days? Don't be daft," he said, referring to his recently-concluded BN Youth's "Jelajah 1Malaysia" programme.

Resuming studies

He had also told Star earlier that his break was indefinite, and expressed interest in resuming his studies.

Khairy holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University, England. In 1998, he completed his Master's degree in Legal and Political Theory at University College London.

However, his MCA counterpart Wee Ka Siong (right) has publicly asked him to reconsider his decision.

It was later revealed that Wee had attended a dinner together with Khairy and MIC Youth chief T Mohan last night, when Wee also took to his Twitter to reveal Khairy's upcoming army training.

Khairy had previously completed his one-month army reserve training in May last year.

It has been speculated that he has been facing intense pressure from within Umno, where the pro-Mahathir lobby still commands a sizeable support.

Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad's disdain for him, and vice-versa, was no secret at a time when the elder statesmen kept raining criticism on his successor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi - who is also Khairy's father-in-law.

The intense battle for the post of Umno Youth chief in the last party elections in 2008, when Khairy battled it out with Mukhriz Mahathir, also did not do much to mend the rift between the two camps.

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