

Umno wants to sue over 'vacant' Port Klang seat
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Selangor Umno expects its latest recruit Badrul Hisham Abdullah to mount a legal challenge against the declaration that his Port Klang state assembly seat was now vacant.

State Umno liaison committee deputy chief Noh Omar said that Badrul Hisham, who joined Umno last May after leaving PKR, has a right to defend himself.

"Badrul Hisham (left) will apply to the court to declare that he is still the legal elected representative of Port Klang," he told journalists after chairing a meeting among Umno elected state representatives at the Umno Selangor headquarters in Shah Alam.

Asked if opposition benchers will raise the issue during the state assembly sitting on Monday, Noh simply said that they will "leave it to the courts".

Yesterday, Speaker Teng Chang Khim announced that he had declared the Port Klang seat vacant after Badrul Hisham allegedly went absent without leave from the state assembly sittings since July 16 last year.

Teng said that Badrul Hisham failed to attend the sitting that between Nov 8 and 13 last year and did not apply for leave until Dec 10.

Speaking to reporters today, Badrul Hisham denied Teng's allegations, claiming that he attended the first day of the state assembly sitting on Nov 8 before taking leave to seek traditional medicine treatment.

He declined comment when repeatedly asked whether he intends to file a suit against Teng.

He appeared visibly uncomfortable with the large group of journalist surrounding him and attempted to inch himself away while saying "nanti lah, nanti lah (later)".

An Umno state assemblyperson told Malaysiakini that the party intends to help Badrul Hisham take legal action if the Election Commission acknowledges Teng's decision.