

**PKR: Najib must explain Felda DG's 'study leave'**

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has to come clean on the suspicious leave of absence granted to Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) director-general Zulkifli Wahab, PKR said.

NONE reiterating calls for Zulkifli's reinstatement, PKR senator Syed Husin Ali said the instruction to Zulkifli to go on a nine-month study leave from Nov 25 was done "behind his back".

"The leave of absence letter was decided when Zulkifli (left) was on his umrah... we understand that Zulkifli had objected to the plan to list Felda Global Ventures Holdings (FGVH) Sdn Bhd on Bursa Malaysia," Syed Husin said.

At a press conference in the Senate lobby today, Syed Husin also claimed that Felda chairperson Isa Samad, who is pushing for the listing, had a hand in matter.

He said Isa had overhauled the management and the board of directors of Felda Holdings Bhd and Koperasi Permodalan Felda (KPF), as well as changed the existing policies that protect members of the cooperative.

"It was also to deceive the Felda employees, who are members of KPF and who will lose the 55 percent majority stake in Felda Holdings..."

NONE "After the listing, the stake held by KPF and Felda's subsidiary companies will be reduced to a mere 30 percent while the remaining 70 percent will be offered to external investors," Syed Husin (right) added.

The Association of Felda Settlers' Children (Anak) yesterday also demanded that Zulkifli be reinstated as director-general of Felda.

PAS organ Harakah had earlier reported that Zulkifli was ordered to take nine months' leave when Najib decided to give the 54-year-old a chance to further his studies.

The report speculates that the order was issued after Najib received a letter from Isa, a former federal territories minister who had been the menteri besar of Negri Sembilan for 22 years, from April 1982 to March 2004.

It adds that the 'study leave' took effect on Nov 25 and will stretch to August next year, by which time the government intends to list FGVH in the stock market.

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