

Jelutong PKR trashes hoax text-message

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Leaders of PKR's Jelutong division have dismissed the contents of an anonymous text-message which states that they are about to jump ship to Umno.

The text-message has been in circulation since Saturday, with journalists also having received it.

It reads: 'PKR Jelutong division leaders will announce departure from party together with 313 members, most of them Youth members on Tuesday, March 6, 10am at the Umno Jelutong headquarter. Circulate.'

However, Youth deputy secretary Khairil Anuar Kamarudin (left) said this is part of a systematic effort by several individuals and NGO members to destroy his credibility and political career.

He said that, since last July when he had organised a programme dubbed 'Kampung Kota Giam for the rakyat', he had been attacked with slanderous accusations connecting him with several issues.

These include the eviction of villagers from Kampung Pokok Asam due to development and allegations of misappropriation of funds related to Masjid Jamek Jelutong.

Khairil Anuar said certain quarters had also attempted to undermine his reputation in the Sekolah Kebangsaan Jelutong Parent-Teacher Association.

"They have failed to destroy me at all levels and so they start circulating this (text-message) that is clearly related to me as one of this division's top leaders," he told reporters today.

"I believe this effort is merely to undermine the good relationship we have with DAP and PAS in Jelutong, but I can confidently say I will never join Umno or BN even if I have to beg."

When contacted, Penang Umno Youth head Shaik Hussein Mydin (right) said he had checked with his colleagues in Jelutong Umno and that they are not aware of the issue.

He denied that the text-message had been circulated by Umno or its Jelutong division leaders.

"This could be PKR's cheap political game. Maybe they merely want recognition from Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng," he laughed.

PKR Jelutong chief Shahul Hameed said no member has resigned from the division which has registered 1,990 members, of who 768 are Youth members, since 2008.

"No one has sent in their resignation letter. Recently we signed up 20 more members," he said showing reporters the new membership forms.

Jelutong Umno 'in limbo'

DAP's Jelutong MP Jeff Ooi said he too had received the text-message and that he believes this is an attempt to threaten Pakatan Rakyat as the general election is said to be close.

He said Jelutong Umno is near-extinct as its 17 branches are in a limbo after then state information chief and Penaga assemblyperson Azhar Ibrahim announced that they had been dissolved.

"What is the quality of their leadership? If they are so divided, the people, especially the Malays, are not going to place their trust in them," said Ooi (right).

"So since they are bankrupt of issues, they have to play this political game."

He praised the good working relationship between DAP, PAS and PKR with state government agencies like the Penang Municipal Council, in delivering fast and efficient services to the people.

Never before in the history of Penang have houses been repaired in 10 days after a fire, but this has happened in Jelutong under Pakatan's leadership, he said.

"Such good deeds are hard to be manipulated, twisted or turned. Please go and do something good for the people, don't send such sms around," he told Umno.

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