

Offer to slap Teresa not a threat, says Zahid

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Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has dismissed the monetary offer by an Islamic non-governmental organisation to anyone who first slaps Seputeh MP Teresa Kok as a threat.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Umno vice-president, was quoted in The Malaysian Insider as saying that "there was nothing to investigate as it is not a threat".

"Slapping is not a threat. If they say murder, then it is a threat," the home minister was quoted by the portal as saying at a function at Kajang prison.

Ahmad Zahid said police will only take action if the slapping happened.

"If they slap her, then we will take action. The slapping thing is between her and that group," the home minister was quoted to have said.

In immediate response, Kok said condemned Ahmad Zahid for allegedly trying to "prejudice the investigations".

"It is wrong for a minister to say that, he should not interfere or make political statements on ongoing investigations," she said when contacted.

"The reward (to slap me) has gone up from RM500 to RM1,200 so the police need to investigate or else we are condoning violence against an elected representative."

PAS Unit Amal to 'protect' Kok

Although fearing for her safety, Kok said she will continue with her duties by depending on her driver to protect her if need be.

However, China Press reported that PAS has offered to the services of its Unit Amal (volunteer corp) to protect Kok.

It was reported that several Muslim NGOs had protested at Jalan Tun Perak, with Muslim Consumers Association of Malaysia (PPIM) activist Mustafa Hamzah offering a monetary reward to the first person who successfully slaps Kok.

Kok had lodged a police report on the matter yesterday. Several lawyers, when contacted, also said that such offer constitutes a criminal act as it is part of criminal intimidation under Section 503 and 505 of the Penal Code.

Police indicated that they have classified the case under Section 505(c) for public mischief with intent to incite anyone to commit any offence, and Section 506 for criminal intimidation.

Ahmad Zahid, however, noted that Kok's Chinese New Year video is being investigated as well since there had been more than 300 reports lodged against the clip.

"The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) have started a probe on this. We will collect all the reports and will look into it," he added.

On Thursday, besides the slapping threat, the NGOs also slaughtered four chickens and smeared the blood on banners which bore the images of Pakatan Rakyat leaders.

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