

Wong: Selangor PAS duo not lackeys, but honourable
MalaysiaKini.com
Sept 22, 2014

PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang has been blasted for "slander" against his two party assemblypersons for supporting PKR's Selangor menteri besar decision.

"I read the slander of (Hulu Kelang assemblyperson Saari Sungib) being bought over, of being a 'barua' (lackey), heaped upon him by no less than his own party chief," said former Selangor exco Elizabeth Wong on her Facebook yesterday.

Wong's is among the flurry of messages on cyberspace showing support for the embattled Saari and Hasnul Baharuddin (Morib assemblyperson) after Hadi's scathing remarks at the PAS muktamar last week.

"This is the same person (Hadi) who also slandered my party president (Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail), who lied about her not speaking in Parliament, whereas the volumes of the Hansard from of 1999 - 2008 show otherwise," added Wong, who is PKR Bukit Lanjan assemblyperson.

She denied that the duo and the other 30 Selangor assemblypersons who had signed statutory declarations to give Wan Azizah the requisite state majority to become the MB had been bought over.

"I can confirm that no promise or incentives have been given to them and to the rest of the 30 assemblypersons," she said.

Instead of berating the duo, Wong said, the two PAS representatives have shown true honour in their act.

"YB Saari Sungib and YB Hasnul Baharuddin have shown to us what honour and quiet dignity mean.

"They may never get honorifics like a datukship, or worse still, not get reselected to run in the next GE by their party.

"But in my eyes, they are honourable men worth so much more than their prefix 'Yang Berhormat'," Wong said.

Saari took the hard road

Wong said having known Saari for 15 years when he was involved in activism, the decision to support Wan Azizah against his party's stand would not have been made easily.

"I knew it was not a decision he made lightly. It was one made with a lot of thought and discussions.

"He knew the consequences, the vitriolic attacks on him and his integrity and even threats to him and his family," she said.

Also speaking up for Saari and Hasnul was Kampung Tunku assemblyperson Lau Weng San (left), who said neither Wan Azizah nor her husband and PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim would be in a position to "buy over" the PAS duo with money or projects.

On Facebook yesterday, Lau praised Saari's performance as the head of the state's select committee on government agencies, statutory bodies and state subsidiary companies (JP-ABAS), in which Lau is also a member.

If Saari can be bought over, he said, he would have been bought over when he was detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) between 2001 and 2003.

"Yes, he was not bought over then, and he is not bought over now too.

"He may have betrayed some leaders in his party but he does not betray his religion, his struggle, his belief and most important, his promise to fight for the people and a better Malaysia for all Malaysians," he said.

Meanwhile, the Selangor speaker Hannah Yeoh tweeted on Saturday, "I have known YB Saari for six years now. He is a man of integrity. God-fearing. Hardworking.

"Don't let the negative words affect you, YB," tweeted Yeoh.

'Don't accuse without evidence'

Meanwhile PKR Rawang assemblyperson Gan Pei Nei posted on Facebook that the duo's move honoured the voters who had supported Pakatan.

"Once again, thank you very much to both of you:for reminding us here that people voted us as Pakatan, and they want to see change.

"And we have to hold on to the causes and principles we fight for throughout the years and movement," she posted today.

Saari also found support from former Perlis mufti Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin as well, who described Saari as a "committed Muslim".

He said although he does not agree with Saari's move to back PKR's attempt to replace the Selangor menteri besar, he found the accusations against him even more objectionable.

"To me, that move (to replace the menteri besar) is wrong. Nevertheless that is his

prerogative and perhaps he has his own reasons.

“What I disagree even more strongly is anyone accusing him of receiving bribes for the support. I am confident that is not his character.

“Such allegations require concrete evidence especially when made in public because it would tarnish the honour of a Muslim who is long known for good conduct,” he wrote on his Facebook page today.

Separately, anti-ISA activist Norlaila Othman said Saari has been a consistent activist in fighting for justice.

“‘Innocent until proven guilty’ is what I used to say to the powers that be that wielded the ISA and slandered, denigrated, and violated the rights of a member of my family (Norlaila’s husband Mat Sah Satray, an ex-ISA detainee).”

“Now, I direct those words to those who accused Saari with uncouth words in a public function that is attended by thousands of participants and received wide coverage from various print and electronic media,” she said yesterday.