

## **PM wants fast resolution to bankruptcy case**

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**By Kow Gah Chie**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has sought a quick out-of-court settlement to Umno Lenggeng state assemblyperson Ishak Ismil's bankruptcy case so as to prevent a by-election.

Najib's former political secretary Shahlan Ismail has been roped in to broker a settlement between Ishak and businessman Misran Sukadi, said a spokesperson in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on condition of anonymity.

"The prime minister has asked Shahlan to talk to both of them to resolve the problem," he told Malaysiakini yesterday.

Malaysiakini has sighted a letter penned by Shahlan, who is director of strategic planning for PMO, on his mission to end the dispute.

"The case has been brought to the attention of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak," according to the May 13 letter sent to the troubled elected Umno state representative.

"Thus, I was ordered by the premier to have you to settle this out-of-court immediately," Shahlan said in the letter.

A copy of the letter has been delivered to Ishak's creditor, Misran.

Earlier, Shahlan has declined to confirm the content of the letter when contacted.

### **State seat at stake**

The Seremban High Court declared the Umno veteran a bankrupt on March 18 for failing to service a loan from businessman Misran.

An elected person stands to lose his seat after being declared a bankrupt. Ishak is appealing to set aside the bankruptcy order.

Ishak was a guarantor to a contractor who borrowed RM2 million from the businessman, which resulted the assemblyperson being drawn into the case after the contractor defaulted his payment.

This was the second time the court had issued the bankruptcy order on Ishak.

"If problem can be resolved, this will definitely save the court's time," said the PMO spokesperson.

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