

Bashah is not Mukhriz's successor, reports paper
MalaysiaKini.com
Jan 30th, 2016

Kedah Umno liaison committee deputy chairperson Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah is not the successor to Menteri Besar Mukhriz Mahathir, reports Berita Harian today.

This is because the name of the Bakar Bata assembly person is not on the list of names submitted as the new Kedah menteri besar.

Quoting sources, the newspaper said the three names proposed by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to the Kedah Regency Council are Guar Chempedak rep Ku Abdul Rahman Ku Ismail, Ayer Hangat rep Mohd Rawi Abdul Hamid and Bayu rep Azmi Che Hussin.

The sources said the absence of Bashah's name was shocking as the deputy Kedah Umno liaison committee chairperson was said to be on the list handed over by Najib when he had met the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah earlier.

"As far as I know at this stage, no final decision has been reached.

"Anything can happen because it is still at the proposal stage and it is not impossible Ahmad Bashah's name could be back on the list," the sources told Berita Harian.

On Jan 20, Bashah had held a press conference announcing that he and 13 other Kedah division chiefs were urging Mukhriz to step down.

This urging followed claims that Kedah Umno had lost confidence in Mukhriz as Kedah MB and state Umno liaison committee chairperson, and also asked Prime Minister Najib to make the change immediately.

However, mStar Online today reported that only one name was submitted as the candidate to replace Mukhriz.

Quoting Umno sources, the portal said Najib had proposed the name during his meeting with the Regency Council yesterday.

The name proposed is believed to be Bashah, who is also a senator and deputy domestic trade, cooperatives and consumerism minister, the portal added.

According to mStar Online, the council also wanted an official letter on Mukhriz's status in Umno, and it is understood, the son of former PM Dr Mahathir Mohamad was summoned to meet the Regency Council at 4pm yesterday, although his aide had said he was at his residence in Bukit Tunku.

The portal said a solution to the crisis appeared difficult, as Mukhriz was said to have

refused to withdraw.

Yesterday, Najib said his meeting with the Regency Council went smoothly and the list of names proposed as Mukhriz's successor had been handed over and not refused by the palace.

However, he did not disclose the list and said Mukhriz would stay as Kedah menteri besar and state Umno liaison chief until further notice.

"I have handed over the list of proposed names on behalf of Umno and shall inform everyone of any further developments," Najib said.

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