

Minister says 'leaks' issue closed, move on
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All that Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil wants is closure and for people to "move on" over the 'bocor' issue.

After a 45-minute meeting with BN backbenchers Mohd Said Yusof and Bung Mokhtar Radin at her ministry this morning, Shahrizat said she has accepted their apology.

"I have accepted their apology with grace and as far as the ministry is concerned, this is the closure we wanted with a stern reminder that this is never to happen again."

"We Malaysians have grace and (since) both of them have openly apologised to all Malaysian women, I accept it and we can move on," she told a packed press conference.

Both Mohd Said and Bung Mokhtar had tendered their apologies "to all women in Malaysia, if they were offended".

However, they explained that their words uttered in Parliament on May 9 was necessary to defend the government during debates.

Asked whether the two MPs were getting away too easily with just an apology, Shahrizat opines that they've been punished enough.

"There are many ways to skin a cat. I think they've got their punishment already because the media really went to town.

"I think it has not been easy for both of them and (the media attention) was also a form of punishment. When they came in and saw me, they held their hands up and said that they were sorry," she elaborated.

Apology meant for all women

The minister was further quizzed on the errant MPs' unwillingness to apologise personally to Fong.

"I requested for a public apology that would include Fong Po Kuan and whoever that is affected by it because I'm looking at the bigger picture.

"They have apologised to all women and they told me that all women included Fong Po Kuan," she added.

Shahrizat even backed Fong up when she said: "I want to make it very clear that I would have done the same thing and taken the same steps had I been a member of the opposition."

However, she pointed out that it would be up to them to apologise in Parliament.

Shahrizat appeared exasperated towards the end of the press conference after reporters continued to badger her on the issue.

She had sternly replied a reporter who questioned the sincerity of the apology: "What else do you expect them to do?" before declaring she will not be answering any more questions.

Confusion over apologies made by Bung Mokhtar and Mohd Said cropped up on Wednesday when they denied having made an apology after it was reported in the Star Online that they did.

It was later reported that they had retracted their apologies after they were scheduled to meet Shahrizat today.

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