

Saman ekor: PAS cold about working with Umno
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PAS and Umno Youth may be on the opposite sides of the political fence but both share an aversion to `saman ekor' (postal summonses) implemented by the police, and that the government is wrong.

However, the rare amity stops there. For, PAS had pledged it would not work with Umno Youth to put a stop to the practice, as it felt the latter had dragged its feet over the issue.

NONEPAS vice-president Mahfuz Omar (in green shirt in photo), who also chairs an anti-saman ekor committee in the campaign, said it would leave the Umno Youth movement out of it.

"Umno Youth is slow as the people had opposed the postal summons for a long time. There is no need to ask Umno Youth to join us," he said after handing over a memorandum on the issue to Transport Minister Kong Cho Ha.

Mahfuz wants the Home Minister to use its powers to direct the Road Transport Department (RTD) to cancel the blacklisting exercise as it is unconstitutional since it violated a person's right to own property under Article 13.

Yesterday, Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin, after meeting taxi and bus operators, also felt the postal summons was not fair and should be dropped for not providing the opportunity for motorists to defend themselves.

Action equals rejecting revenue

Mahfuz also said the Transport Ministry's action was akin to the government rejecting revenue.

"I understand from lawyers that insurance can be renewed but not the road tax. Why does the government want to reject revenue whereas the private sector (insurance) would be getting theirs from the people," he asked.

Mahfuz, who is also Pokok Sena MP, said he wanted to seek an explanation from Kong on why the RTD and the police are working together in blacklisting such individuals.

"The police are at fault for employing such dubious tactics while the RTD is worsening the situation further by blacklisting the vehicles," he said.

"I would try and hold a meeting with police, RTD and Home Ministry along with the Malaysian Human Rights Commission to discuss the issue."

Mahfuz said if all this did not work out he would mobilise the 1.7 million affected motorists to initiate legal action.

He then referred to the case of Lim Yaw Chiang vs RTD director, where the court had ruled that blacklisting a vehicle for not paying postal summonses was unconstitutional.

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