

Ex-PKR sec-gen insists signature forged
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Former PKR secretary-general Salehuddin Hashim today insisted that the signature on a letter to dismiss P Jenapala as a party member in 2008 was forged.

“Yes, the letter bore the image of my electronic signature which I used on the thousands of circulars through which I communicated with the more than two hundred divisions of the party.

“So, the said letter could be a cut-and-paste job or an abuse of my electronic signature in the files. I leave that to the police to investigate,” he during a press conference at a golf resort in Petaling Jaya this morning.

NONE Jenapala, Salehuddin's former deputy, was allegedly sacked after forming another political party. Jenapala refutes this and raised a ruckus after he was barred from contesting in the recently concluded party polls.

He tried unsuccessfully to sue the party and sought a declaration that the elections were null and void. During the hearing, PKR lawyers tendered an affidavit of Jenapala's sacking letter signed by Salehuddin.

Salehuddin lodged a police report last week to claim that the letter was forged. Salehuddin's successor Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said that he welcomes the investigations.

“The fact remains that I did not issue such a letter nor approve its content nor had I ever directed anyone to issue such a letter,” he said while reading out from a prepared statement.

No due process

Salehuddin said that even if the letter was legitimate, Jenapala's alleged sacking was still questionable as the party constitution does not provide the secretary-general, or even the party president, the sole authority to sack any member.

“The letter did not say whether the sacking was deliberated by the central leadership council and that I was directed in my capacity as secretary-general to inform the person of his sacking.

“Even then, the committee would normally hand the case over to its disciplinary committee to investigate and return with its recommendation. All such matters are minuted in the minutes of that central leadership council meeting,” he said.

However, he said that he is not pointing fingers at anyone, saying that it could be “anyone's work”.

“Although usually, the secretariat will be in charge of these things,” he said with a chuckle.

'I am not with Zaid'

When asked if he was involved in former Federal Territories PKR chairperson Zaid Ibrahim's new political party, Salehuddin denied it, adding that he would not comment on someone's “aspirations that haven't materialised yet”.

“But maybe Zaid was encouraged to give a platform to those who seek reformation and justice in the party but were denied.

"Most of the PKR members are genuine and truly want to see justice but are not given the platform," he said.

Attacking his former party colleagues and leaders further, Salehudin said they must be introspective rather than blame everyone else for their troubles.

"I was so saddened to see party members who had tried to demonstrate near the PKR congress being denied and chased away aggressively.

"When I was younger, I would always demonstrate. But now that the party has some kind of power, they seem to have forgotten themselves. They are not even in Putrajaya yet, just Shah Alam.

"I think the leadership of PKR has lost the plot," he said.

Salehuddin was the secretary-general of PKR from 2008 until his resignation from both his post and the party early this year.

He also announced that he would be a "reformasi activist", setting up a blog that will serve as a watchdog for PKR..

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