

Zambry: I'm the menteri besar
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Those following political development in Perak must be fed up with hearing the oft repeated declaration of Zambry Abdul Kadir that "I am the menteri besar".

But as long as the Perak impasse is not resolved to the satisfaction of the two parties involved, Zambry will continue to repeat it, as he did again today.

I am the menteri besar appointed by the Perak sultan, this is a clear process but some people are twisting it," he told reporters after officiating a function in Ipoh today.

According to Bernama, Zambry stressed that his position as head of the state government was clear but was made to look otherwise by certain quarters.

Zambry is locked in a tussle for the menteri besar's post with Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin of PAS over the past weeks. Zambry is the menteri besar appointed by BN which ousted Nizar.

The BN leader said the matter had been clarified several times but, because of certain quarters twisting facts, the perception that there is a constitutional and legal crisis continues to persist.

Sultan to decide

Asked why the Perak legal advisor did not make a statement to clarify the matter from the aspect of the constitution and the law, Zambry said as a civil servant the advisor was bound by regulations and could not make a statement to the media.

On the date of the state assembly sitting, he said it would be decided by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah. "We have six months, it is up to Tuanku to determine a suitable time."

The assembly last met in November last year. Based on the state constitution, the state assembly must sit within six months of the last sitting.

Yesterday, Zambry said he will attend the assembly sitting although Speaker V Sivakumar had taken action which was considered as not following procedure in suspending and barring him and six state executive councillors from attending the sitting.

Sivakumar's action was disputed by various quarters including DAP chair Karpal Singh who said the committee's decision could not be enforced unless it was endorsed by the state assembly.

Attempts by Malaysiakini to contact Sivakumar over the past two days failed. Today, he could not be reached as well - his mobile was switched off.