

Where in the world is Sulaiman Taib?

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KUCHING - The prolonged absence of Sulaiman Abdul Rahman Taib, son of the Sarawak Chief Minister, from his duties continues to baffle political observers, raising questions about his health condition.

The state government has been urged to clarify the situation to prevent negative speculations from further arising.

According to *Sarawak Report*, Sulaiman who resigned as Deputy Tourism Minister last year for personal reasons, has disappeared from the public view while some has speculated as to whether Sulaiman is actually capable of carrying out his responsibilities.

It was also speculated that Sulaiman, referred to as 'heir apparent', would take over his father's position as chief minister when he (Sulaiman) resigned as Deputy Tourism Minister in December 2009.

Sulaiman was accused in the *Sarawak Report* article dated Oct 20 to have under-performed in his role as the Deputy Tourism Minister. He had failed to manage Taib's property companies in the United States, and was removed from the Board of RHB Bank due to his unsatisfying performance.

Sarawak Report also cited an opposition MP who said Sulaiman, also an MP, has not stepped into the Federal Parliamentary building for the entire past parliamentary session.

"They are criticising him, quite rightly, for failing to perform the job he is paid by the public purse to do, which is to represent his constituents," the Sarawak website quoted the MP as saying.

According to *Sarawak Report*, DAP member Charles Santiago has told the website that he will be raising a question in Parliament shortly if an announcement explaining the son's absence is not made.

The website claimed that the failure to explain the situation is giving unfortunate credence to the widespread and powerful rumours that the MP may be suffering from a 'self-inflicted, lifestyle disease'.

It would be negative news as observers have started to make their own conclusions about Sulaiman's condition and inevitably it will reflect on the lifestyle of the youthful multi-millionaire.

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