

Isa's appointment as Felda chief under fire
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KUALA LUMPUR - The government's decision to appoint the former menteri besar of Negeri Sembilan Isa Samad (picture) as the new Felda chairman has come under fire from Felda's Settlers' Children's Association (ANAK).

Describing Isa, who was suspended from UMNO in 2005 over money politics, as an "expired leader who is unfit to lead Felda", thisa-samade group urged the prime minister to immediately cancel the appointment.

"Based on the previous wrong doings of him, it is clear that he is not a trustworthy leader.

"I urge the Prime Minister to withdraw the appointment," ANAK chairman Mazlan Aliman told Harakahdaily.

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Department announced Isa as the successor to Mohd Yusof Noor, who is now appointed as advisor to the minister in charge of Felda.

Isa, who won the UMNO vice presidency in 2004, was suspended by the party's disciplinary board for six years for breach of the party's code of ethics.

Last year, he made a political comeback after beating Zulkefly Mohamad Omar of PAS by a majority of 5,435 votes in the Bagan Pinang state by-election.

Mazlan said his group would carry out a signature campaign to press for Isa's removal.

"If the government does not withdraw the appointment, ANAK will do a referendum of one million signatures and send them to the Prime Minister to withdraw the appointment," he said, and added that ANAK might also seek an intervention from the Agong.

Mazlan said the future of Felda, which is the body responsible for the development of rural lands, should not be "gambled" by placing it under the care of those with a track record of corruption.

Mazlan also referred to a recent statement by deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department Ahmad Maslan who said many Felda settlers had turned into successful academicians and professionals, and questioned why they were not considered to lead Felda.

"So why did we not pick them? We have settlers' children who are successful in GLC (government linked company), academicians, division directors - are all these people not qualified to lead Felda to the extent we have to make do with an expired leader?" he asked.
- Harakahdaily