

Khairy: Check your facts first

By IAN MCINTYRE and
NORILYANI MD NOR
newsdesk@thestar.com

KOTA BARU: Umno Youth deputy head Khairy Jamaluddin has called on party members to "check their facts first" in the light of accusations levelled against him.

"It is not just me or Umno," he said. "Malaysians generally should check their facts before accepting wholesale these dubious claims."

He said Malaysians were now more mature, unlike in the past, when people could be easily taken in by mere talk.

The accusations levelled against him were baseless and mere lies as he was an easy target, he said, adding: "Those who cannot attack Pak Lah (Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) attack him through me, as his son-in-law.

"Nevertheless, my conscience is clear. I will continue to stick to my principles and political struggles.

"I am loyal to Umno. Respect the party as an institution. Even if you do not respect me, please respect Umno.

"If members are unsure about certain things they have heard, just SMS me. I will answer. Hear directly from the person concerned."

There were many sources to check data, including the traditional media, he said, adding that queries pertaining to the sale of corporate entities could be addressed to Bursa Malaysia or the Securities Commission (SC).



Khairy: 'Accusations baseless and mere lies'

Answering his critics for the first time in public, Khairy said he needed to clarify certain issues to avoid confusion among Umno Youth members, adding that the delegates' conference was the best platform

to clarify and explain issues.

"I did not want to respond initially. This can cause infighting within Umno and we don't want to weaken the party. However, lately, some of the attacks have been of a personal nature."

Khairy had earlier spent some 45 minutes explaining the wing's agenda and clarifying rumours spread about him in his address to the Pengkalan Chepa Umno Youth delegates conference.

In his speech, Khairy swore that he was only married to one person - Nori Abdullah (the Prime Minister's daughter), and challenged anyone to prove that he had two marriage certificates.

Khairy said this following persistent talk that he was also

married to actress Maya Karin, who became famous following her lead role in the hit movie *Pontianak Harum Sundal Malam*.

He also urged people to check who actually owned the Stake in Alliance Bank that was sold to Singaporean interests and who had owned the shares in Pantai Holdings Bhd that were sold to Singapore investment arm Temasek Holdings.

He said the facts could be obtained from Bursa or the SC.

On the sale of MV Augusta by Proton Holdings for one euro, Khairy said: "Even KTM Bhd at one time (during its loss-making days) was offered to prospective buyers at RM1.

"It was the same when DRB Hicom sold off AirAsia which was making losses. So selling

off companies at nominal market value is a normal thing."

On the aborted bridge to Singapore, Khairy said Malaysia stood to lose billions if Singapore filed a suit in the International Court over the project.

"Imagine the bridge is almost complete," he said, "then Singapore files a suit which may take three to four years of deliberation before a decision is reached.

"The project cannot proceed pending the disposal of suit. We can lose billions. The Government made the decision based on fact."

He expressed his frustration that certain quarters were still not satisfied, and continued to hit out against the Government although it had declassified the relevant documents.