

# ACA eye on ex-council president

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The 24-hour transfer notice given to the Sabak Bernam district council president, Ahmad Samuri Mohd Dahlan, has caught the attention of the Anti-Corruption Agency.

ACA investigations director Mohd Shukri Abdul said the Selangor ACA is looking into the matter.

"At the moment, there is no investigation, but I have already informed Selangor (ACA) to look into it," he told the *New Straits Times*.

The council president was given the transfer notice on Tuesday following the discovery of four gambling centres near the police station in Sekinchan recently.

Ahmad Samuri was transferred to the Public Service Department

when his explanation did not satisfy Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

"He only sent a normal report. We found that he had extended the licences by another six months," Dr Khir had said on Wednesday.

The Menteri Besar had also said that one of the owners had three premises to his name.

Dr Khir had said that he did not want people to wash their hands off any problem.

"If they approve a licence, they must be responsible for it. If you can't carry out enforcement, then don't approve it."

He added that since Ahmad Samuri was from the PSD, the state government decided to send him back.

Meanwhile, in Shah Alam yesterday, Dr Khir warned local councils and councillors to concentrate on their core business of providing basic services and serve the people or face a similar fate as Ahmad Samuri.

Approving licences for entertainment outlets and massage parlours is not part of their core business, especially if they do not have the means of regulating them, he said.

"Some local authorities have approved between 60 and 70 licences for massage parlours, despite knowing that they lack enforcement officers to monitor the activities."

Dr Khir also warned that excuses would no longer be tolerated.

Councillors and officers who support applications for licences must do so in writing and bear the responsibility of monitoring the premises.

"They will be held accountable if these premises turn out to be fronts for illegal activities," he said.

Dr Khir, who handed letters of appointment to the new councillors, urged them to be responsible and to lead by example.

"I expect councillors to comply with the law and accept the consequences if they are penalised by the local authority," he said.

He added that councillors should face the maximum penalty and not ask for a reduction in the amount of fine imposed on them.