

Surendran denies RPK's allegations of power abuse
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By Melissa Chi

PETALING JAYA, Jan 6 — PKR Vice-President N Surendran denied today claims by Raja Petra Kamarudin that he had benefited from a substantial amount of work from Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) as well as become "fabulously rich" since taking up his current position.

"Raja Petra Kamaruddin, in making that allegation, is an absolute and utter liar.

"It is a complete lie. I have never received any kind of legal work from MBPJ or the Selangor government, or any government in Pakatan Rakyat," he told reporters at the PKR headquarters.

Posting details of the purported corruption and conflict of interest in his Malaysia-Today web portal today, Raja Petra revealed two cases of alleged abuse of power in the state administration.

The controversial blogger said legal matters involving the MBPJ were being given to a group of lawyers who are all PKR leaders.

He said that the MBPJ's act of favouritism has caused considerable disquiet amongst other Pakatan Rakyat councillors.

Raja Petra named MBPJ councillors Derek Fernandez and Lateefa Koya, MP for Subang R Sivarasa, and Surendran (picture) as the group of favoured lawyers.

The other case involves Azmin Ali's brother-in-law, Johan Taharin. Azmin, PKR's deputy president, who was also at the press conference, did not comment.

Surendran said, "In fact, I want to go further and say since I took up public activism in 1998, I have never received a single sen for any kind of legal work, political work, or activist work that I have done over the past 13 years.

"So it's very indicative of the kind of person Raja Petra is, that he is capable of repeating this kind of complete lie in a public manner," he said.

He added that he is aware of a second allegation, claiming he used to drive a "beat up Saga" but now drives an expensive continental car.

"Long, long before I became a VP, I was driving an expensive continental car purchased with my earnings as a lawyer 18 years standing.

"Not through any work ... nothing that I have taken from MBPJ or any other government," he said today.

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