

Former minister resigns
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CRITICISED: Tan Sri Kadir Sheikh Fadzir is no longer Umno member

KUALA LUMPUR: FORMER information minister Tan Sri Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, who had come under fire in recent weeks for speaking out against Umno, has resigned.

In a statement issued yesterday, Kadir said he had sent an official letter of resignation to Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

The former Kulim/Bandar Baharu member of parliament said last week he had resigned as Umno division treasurer. Kadir had been with Umno for 56 years.

Tengku Adnan, when contacted, said he had received Kadir's resignation letter and would raise the matter with the party's management committee.

On Saturday, Adnan had challenged Kadir to resign if he felt things were not right in Umno.

He had said Kadir "needed to think" before making statements which could affect the party's image.

Kadir had claimed in a statement on an online news portal that Barisan Nasional had bought votes, ranging from RM200 and RM1,000, in the last general election.

Kampung Air Merah Umno branch head Mat Saad Osman had said last week that Kadir must clear his name and sue the news portal if indeed he had not said those words.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said he was indifferent to Kadir's resignation.

"It's not whether we are pleased or not, Kadir should be asking himself if he is happy with his decision.

"As Umno members, we are given the space and time to voice our disagreements through branch meetings.

"There is no point in attacking the party openly if you still intend to be a part of it," said Ismail.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said it was the right thing for the Umno veteran to do after what he had said about the party of late.

"But it does not absolve his credibility for all the allegations that he had made against the party and the government," he said.

When contacted by Bernama, Kadir declined to say whether he would join any other political party or set up a political party.

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