

PKR calls for transparency in 'khalwat' controversy
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By Lisa J. Ariffin

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 — PKR today urged the Pahang Islamic Religious Department (JAIP) to investigate Selangor PKR leader Dr Badrulamin Bahron, who was allegedly caught for "khalwat" (close proximity) yesterday, both transparently and professionally.

"Keadilan urges Jaip and the authorities to conduct the investigations in a transparent and professional manner," Keadilan secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution said today.

The PKR supreme council member explained in a statement last night that he was helping a victim of domestic violence and her child at the time of his arrest. — file pic
"Keadilan also reiterates our commitment to uphold fairness for all parties involved," he added.

Earlier today, Selangor PKR leader Badrulamin denied allegations he had been caught for "khalwat" at a hotel in Kuantan yesterday, claiming instead to be a victim of a plan to "trap and embarrass me".

The PKR supreme council member explained in a statement last night that he was merely helping a female acquaintance, who is said to be a victim of domestic violence, at the time of his arrest by religious officials.

Badrulamin explained that the woman had first placed a distress call to him on Friday, saying she wanted to run away from home as she "feared for her safety".

He said he had advised her against doing so but the woman, with her child in tow, then showed up unexpectedly at 2am yesterday, at the location where he was attending a two-day PKR meeting.

"I've known both the husband and wife for over a year when the woman and her family accompanied my umrah delegation.

"The couple has been in contact with me often, seeking advice for their family troubles, including domestic violence. In my effort to help them, my wife and I have even visited their family in Rompin," said Badrulamin.

He said the woman and her child were in such a state at the time that he decided to check them into a hotel room.

But at 2.30am, he said, the woman's husband, flanked by over 20 unknown individuals "surrounded and attacked" him. The husband then "forcefully" dragged his wife and child away.

"The men who behaved like samsengs only stopped beating me when the authorities arrived and blocked them," he said.

Despite this, Badrulamin said he was still not allowed to leave the room.

About 20 minutes later, JAIP officials arrived to detain him, he said.

He added that he has been called to aid JAIP investigations on February 27 and is ready to offer his full cooperation.

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