

Penang Umno 'sad over tussle for post'
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GEORGE TOWN: Penang Umno yesterday expressed regret over the statement by Penang Deputy Chief Minister I, Datuk Mansor Osman, on the appointment of the Penang Islamic Affairs Council (MAINPP) president and described it as political theatrics that were not acceptable.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Penang Umno Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman said the way the issue was handled showed the state government leadership was neither transparent nor smart.

He said the decision by the state government to push for its preferred candidate -- Penang Pas Commissioner Datuk Mohd Salleh Man -- to be named MAINPP president showed their irresponsible attitude, which had denied the decision by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who had approved the appointment of Abdul Malik Abul Kassim from Parti Keadilan Rakyat to the post.

Yesterday, Mansor was quoted as saying that the state government was seeking an appointment with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah to appeal to him to appoint Salleh as the president of MAINPP .

Mansor admitted that the state government had proposed Malik last December and the Agong accepted the proposal. However, barely a month later, the state government sent another letter to Istana Negara on Jan 20 and proposed Salleh to lead the council.

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