

Bakri MP apologises for violating Pakatan boycott order
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BY CLARA CHOOI

KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 – DAP's Bakri MP Er Teck Hwa has apologised to his party for mistakenly attending today's parliamentary briefing despite an order to boycott the meet as a symbolic gesture in Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) reforms protest.

The second-term parliamentarian said he had missed the email instruction sent to all 38 DAP lawmakers last week as he had not gone through all correspondence in his email inbox.

"This is my mistake for not thoroughly going through all the messages and email for this specific order to boycott today's briefing and stirring up more controversy on [the] current political scenario," he said in a statement here.

"I would like to express my most sincere apologies for my inappropriate actions and humbly accept any disciplinary action that might be taken against me."

Er raised eyebrows in Parliament today when he was the sole MP from the 89-member opposition bloc to attend a scheduled briefing.

When approached by reporters, Er said he felt the briefing was important and the decision to attend it was of his own initiative.

"Briefing day is important, we want to see if there are new rules and so on," said Er, an MP well-known among Parliament circles for his halting Bahasa Malaysia and persistence in the Dewan Rakyat.

Hours later in his press statement, however, Er admitted that despite not seeing the official email from his party, he had been well informed about the boycott as it was reported in the media.

But he pointed out that it was standard procedure for the party leadership to convey orders via text messages or emails.

After stirring much attention for attending this morning's briefing, Er said he checked with the DAP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) and discovered that the notice was emailed out last week.

"But since I have not received any SMS from [the] Central Committee regarding this particular order, and this particular email message had been missed out, I... decided to attend this briefing to understand the latest regulation and information in order to carry out my duty as a people's representative," he said.

The PR leadership council had decided to boycott the sitting in its last meeting to signify its protest against the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) government for its alleged refusal to adhere to demands for electoral reform.

The Malaysian Insider understands that the DAP leadership issued a show cause letter on Er today after it was reported that he violated the boycott order this morning.

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