

DAP MP petitions to disqualify 2 ministers, 3 deputy ministers
Malaysian Insider
June 19, 2013
By Jennifer Gomez

The recent appointments of two ministers and three deputy ministers were unconstitutional, DAP MP M. Kula Segaran said in a petition filed at the Kuala Lumpur High court today.

In filing the judicial review summons, Kula Segaran applied to challenge the appointments of ministers Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and Datuk Paul Low, and deputy ministers P. Waythamoorthy, Dr Loga Bala Mohan and Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipa.

"Their appointments did not comply with the Federal Constitution," Kula Segaran told reporters in Kuala Lumpur today.

"There must be strict compliance to Article 43 of the Federal Constitution. They must be members of either of the Houses, which means they must have been elected as an MP or sworn in as senators before they are appointed as ministers and deputy ministers.

"As such, all privileges and other pecuniary advantages obtained by the respective respondents must be refunded by each of them to the government within seven days of the order to be made by the court."

In the leave application, he claimed that the appointment of the five without first being sworn in as members of either House of Parliament was unconstitutional.

Abdul Wahid and Low were named as ministers in the prime minister's department and Waythamoorthy deputy minister. Loga is the deputy minister in the Federal Territories Ministry while Ahmad Bashah is deputy Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Minister.

However, the appointments of namely Low, who used to be president of anti-graft watchdog Transparency International Malaysia, and Waythamoorthy, the Hindraf chairman who turned BN-friendly before the elections, had come under fire from various quarters. Abdul Wahid was president and CEO of Maybank before his cabinet appointment.

Kula Segaran added that the summons will also be served on the Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail later today.

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