

Zuraida: S'wak BN afraid of PKR

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PETALING JAYA: BN is barring PKR leaders from entering Sarawak because it is afraid the opposition party will campaign for the Balingian by-election, PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin said today.

“This is a desperate measure by BN because they are afraid we will enter Sarawak and campaign,” said Zuraida, who was barred entry yesterday afternoon and ordered back to Kuala Lumpur.

The Ampang MP was the fourth leader denied entry. PKR strategy chief and Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli, Batu MP and PKR vice president Tian Chua, and secretary general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail were barred on Tuesday.

They were all stopped from entering the state at Sibu airport and were told their names were on the list of people barred from entering the state.

Speaking at a press conference at the PKR headquarters here today, Zuraida said it could not be a coincidence that they were denied entry so close to the Balingian by-election.

“This is clearly an attempt to prevent us from campaigning. It is an indicator of what will happen when the by-election is announced,” she said.

‘Reveal names of those on blacklist’

Zuraida conceded that Sarawak had the right to deny individuals entry into the state, but because they had not provided her a concrete reason for doing so, their actions infringed on her freedom of movement.

“Sarawak is part of Malaysia, and I’m a parliamentarian. I have a right to go there,” she said.

The notice to Zuraida reads: ‘This serves to notify you pursuant to Section 65(1) of the Immigration Act 1959/63, the state Authority has directed that no pass be issued to you to enter State of Sarawak and such pass is required under Section 66 for you to enter the State.’ It was signed by Ibrahim Marzuki, the Director of Immigration Sarawak.

Zuraida today challenged leaders of the state to provide a list of PKR leaders who are blacklisted from entering the state.

“I believe BN-Umno’s actions will tarnish their image and have an impact on the upcoming by-election. Let this be a warning to the newly-appointed Chief Minister Adenan Satem,” she said.

Adenan challenged Anwar Ibrahim to take legal action, including suing him and the state government if the de facto chief was unhappy with the decision to bar certain individuals from

Peninsular Malaysia from entering Sarawak.

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