

Dr M Breached Ethical Duty Of Confidentiality, Says Pandikar
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had breached the "ethical duty of confidentiality between individuals in discussion" when he announced that he (Pandikar) had wanted to resign as the speaker of the Dewan Rakyat.

Pandikar, who extended an apology earlier to Dr Mahathir if his words were to hurt the former prime minister, said the former president of Umno had actually "embarrassed himself" by breaching the ethical duty of confidentiality.

He said it was not his intention to shame Dr Mahathir but said that what he discussed with the statesman were "matters which would not have been expressed to others".

Pandikar read out a three-page statement at a press conference at his home here today in a response to Dr Mahathir's remarks at a forum in Ipoh on Saturday as well as at the launch of the former prime minister's books yesterday in Putrajaya.

Dr Mahathir had said that Pandikar had caused him embarrassment by releasing a media statement dismissing his (Dr Mahathir's) announcement of his resignation as the speaker of the Dewan Rakyat.

"It is true that I met Tun (Dr) Mahathir at his office at Yayasan Al-Bukhary on Friday, March 13," he said.

Pandikar said that at the meeting, they discussed many things, including the current political situation in peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.

"I also admit that I poured my heart out to him about my frustrations over my duties as the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat, and expressed my wish to resign," he said.

Pandikar said he had informed Dr Mahathir that he would not preside over the Dewan Rakyat session from March 11 to April 9 and that his duty would be carried out by the two deputy speakers.

"At that point, in his eagerness to bring down Datuk Seri Najib as the prime minister, he did not advise me to meet with the prime minister to discuss the matter so that a solution could be reached, but told me to resign immediately," he said.

Pandikar said that on March 19 he had met with Najib at his office at Parliament House, and at that meeting to discuss national and parliamentary issues, he spoke to the prime minister about resigning and handed over an official letter dated March 18.

"The prime minister did not accept the letter, nor did he even read it. Instead, he asked me

the reasons which had led me to want to resign as the speaker," he said.

Pandikar stressed that his intention to resign was not because of furniture or office equipment in the Speaker's office or other trivial matters.

He said he wished to end his misunderstanding with Tun Dr Mahathir for whom he had great respect and regarded as a father.

"I wish to reiterate that I would not do anything to embarrass Tun Dr Mahathir.

"He had embarrassed himself. Clearly, in this matter, Tun Dr Mahathir had not lied and I had not lied either," he said.

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