

Salleh backs Zahid's claim on plot against government

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By Melati A Jalil

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi must have a basis to claim that an Umno leader was behind a plot to topple the government, said Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak.

He said any changes to replace the government must be done through the ballot box and the people are the ones who had the power to decide which party would become the ruling party.

"For me, the deputy prime minister must have a basis for making the statement.

"Many of us forget that we are an independent country and the ones who decide the future are the people," he said this morning after launching the Kuala Lumpur Car Free Morning at Dataran Merdeka today.

Yesterday, Zahid, who is also the Home Minister, revealed that an Umno leader was behind a plot to topple the government with the support of opposition lawmakers.

The Umno vice-president said that as home minister, he had learned that they were preparing statutory declarations (SD) to remove the government.

"There is an effort to obtain SDs among the opposition lawmakers and to pull in Barisan Nasional (BN) lawmakers to topple the government.

"I received this information from very trusted sources. This effort is going on... The strange thing is that it is led by an Umno, BN member," Zahid said yesterday.

However, he did not reveal the identity of the Umno leader, saying it would be "exposed on its own".

Zahid said the movement was ongoing, and a lawyer was already preparing to present a seven-page memorandum made up of yellow paper, with the SDs attached, to show that they represented the majority.

Rumours have been circulating that Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin is attempting to overthrow the government, after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak dropped him from the Cabinet.

However, the former deputy prime minister has denied this repeatedly, and again yesterday while opening the Semporna Umno division meeting he reiterated his position.

Muhyiddin told delegates he would be "stupid" to wreck the government he helped build.

Former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, while confirming meeting former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, denied he was out to topple BN and form a unity government with the opposition.

"I recently met Dr Mahathir, he invited me. I meet everyone," he said.

But Tengku Razaleigh, also known as Ku Li, refused to divulge the details of the meeting, saying it was personal.

"I don't want to interfere too much. We want everything to be calm, the situation to be good, and to avoid any confusion among the public while the economy is having problems.

"We shouldn't add any more problems to the people," he said.

He said he had also met Najib twice before Hari Raya. – August 16, 2015.

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