

BN backbenchers distance themselves from alleged plot to topple Putrajaya
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By Kc Nazari

Barisan Nasional (BN) backbenchers in Parliament have distanced themselves from claims by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi about a conspiracy to topple the government from within the coalition.

The BN Backbenchers' Club (BNBBC) president Tan Sri Shahrir Samad said Zahid's statement was not a licence for any blog to make up stories linking the ruling coalition's lawmakers with the deputy prime minister's claims.

"The thing is, those who make these stories up had never even asked the deputy prime minister. And this speculation has given a reason for others to make more speculations," Shahrir said in a press conference this afternoon.

Zahid had said on Sunday that there were such efforts led by an "elderly" BN leader.

This was picked up by a blog, which listed names of BN lawmakers, whom it claimed were allegedly part of the plot.

Sinar Harian had reported that 20 BN parliamentarians were in cahoots to topple the Najib-led administration, as claimed by a blog.

The daily also published denials from seven of the lawmakers named in the blog including Johor Baru MP Shahrir, Arau MP Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Kulim Bandar Baharu MP Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir, Kudat MP Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri, Kinabatangan MP Datuk Bung Mokhtar Radin, Pasir Gudang MP Normala Abdul Samad and Pulai MP Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed.

Zahid recently said that a senior politician in Umno was trying to topple the government.

According to Shahrir, BNBBC was planning to meet Zahid to deliver their denials of the matter.

When asked if Zahid, who is also the home minister, should stop speculating about the alleged plot to overthrow the government, Shahrir said the matter should be referred to him.

Zahid first revealed the plot to topple the government on Saturday and vowed that he would not allow it to happen.

He said he had learnt that an Umno man was leading the plot with the support of opposition lawmakers, and that they were seeking the signatures of both BN and

opposition lawmakers for a statutory declaration to remove the government.

This led to deputy Umno president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the party veteran leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah denying any part in the alleged conspiracy.

However, Zahid later said that the Umno man had "come to his senses" and realised the severity of his plan. – August 18, 2015.

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