

Umno member grilled by MCMC for questioning Zahid's Indonesia trip
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By Md Izwan

An Umno blogger has been summoned by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) over his post questioning the timing of Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's official visit to Indonesia, which coincided with the wedding of the deputy prime minister's son there.

Shahbudin Husin set tongues wagging when he questioned if Zahid's official visit was moved forward from its original date to coincide with the wedding reception.

Shahbudin said MCMC officers grilled him yesterday and told him he was being investigated under Section 233 of the Multimedia and Communications Act 1998 which makes it an offence to publish indecent, obscene, false, menacing, or offensive materials to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any person.

"My statement was recorded for two hours over the article titled 'Kenapa lawatan rasmi Zahid ke Indonesia sama tarikh dengan majlis sanding anaknya di Jakarta?' (Why Zahid's official visit to Indonesia coincides with his son's wedding reception in Jakarta?)," said Shahbudin.

He was asked if his article was to tarnish the image of anyone in particular.

"I told them that I only questioned the trip and wedding reception. I did not make any accusation. I only asked for answers to the question I had raised in the article," he said.

MCMC officers also told him that Zahid's aide had lodged a complaint over his post, but did not divulge anymore details about the complainant.

In the September 20 blog post, Shahbudin questioned whether Zahid had planned for the wedding reception to coincide with his official visit, or if it was just a coincidence.

"This raises the question, why was Zahid's official trip to Indonesia scheduled at the same time as his son's wedding reception?"

"Was it a coincidence, planned, or destined by God?" the Umno member wrote.

Zahid's four-day visit to Indonesia which began on September 18 was his first abroad after his appointment as the deputy prime minister on July 28.

Apart from Indonesian vice-president Jusof Kalla, he also met Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration Muhammad Hanif Dhakiri and Minister of Home Affairs Tjahjo Kumolo.

Shahbudin, a strong critics of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, is no stranger to controversy.

His book, "Exposing the Bank Rakyat and Deepak Loan Scandal", on alleged discrepancies over a bank loan to businessman Deepak Jaikishan, was banned by court order. – September 30, 2015.

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